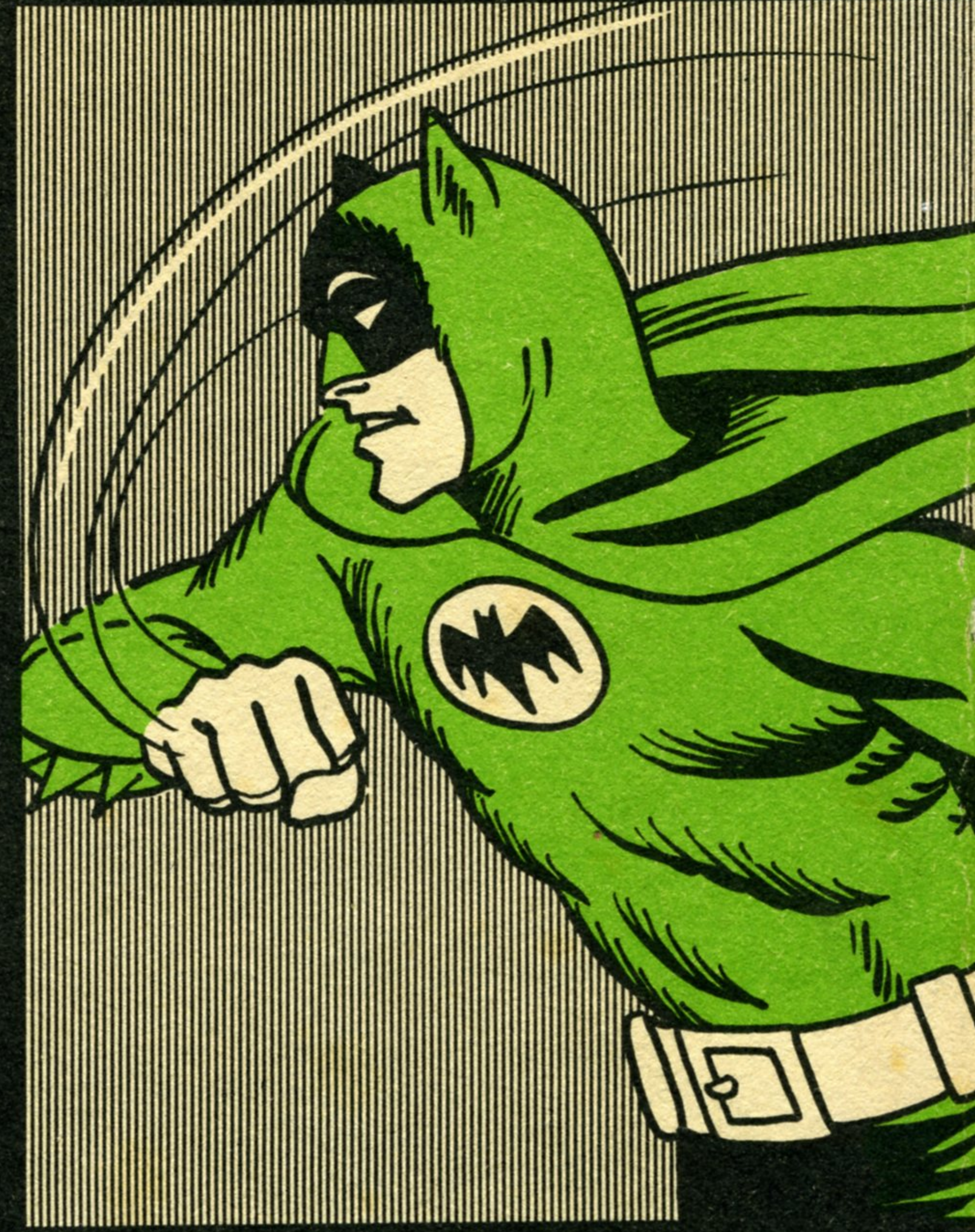
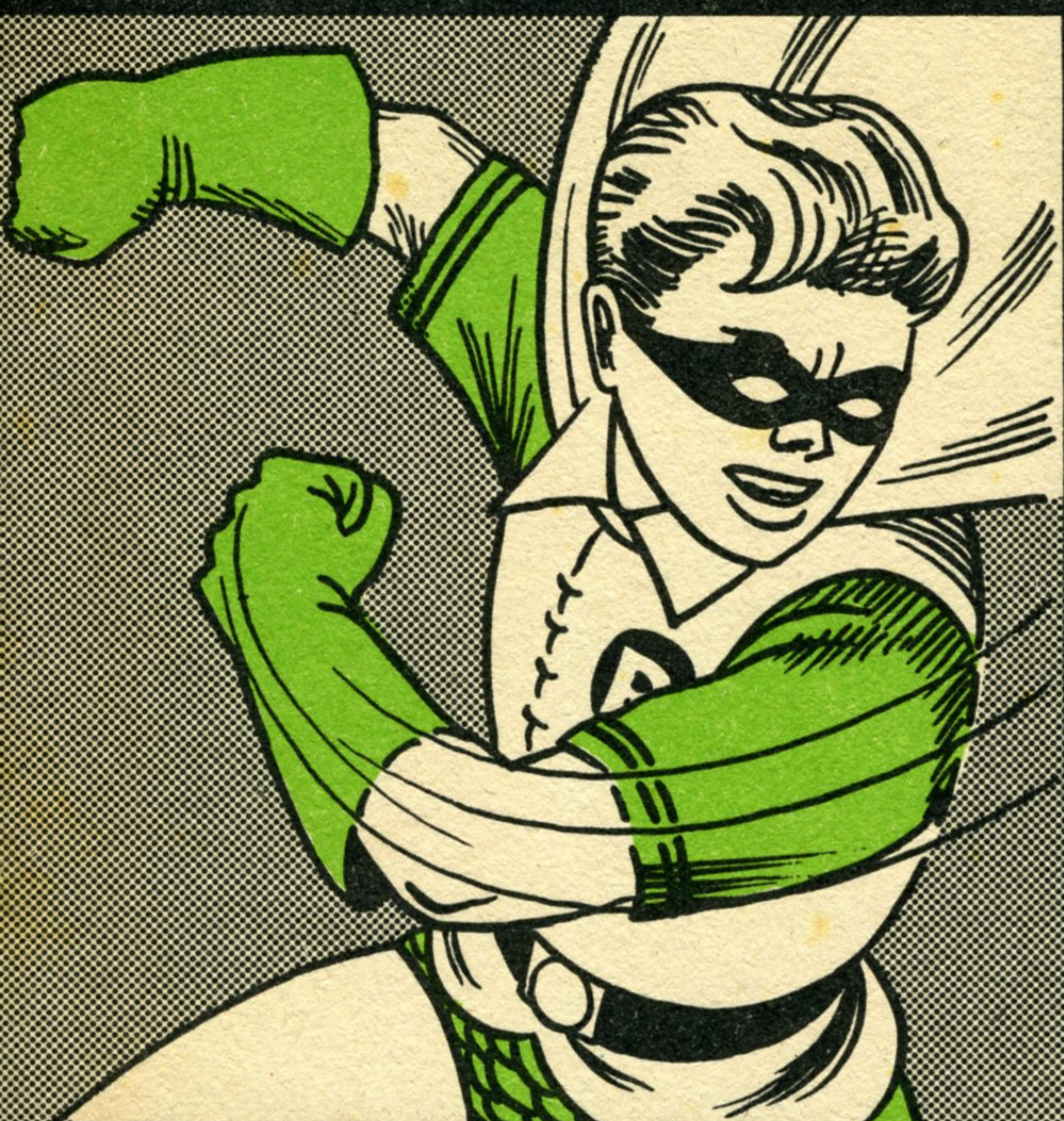


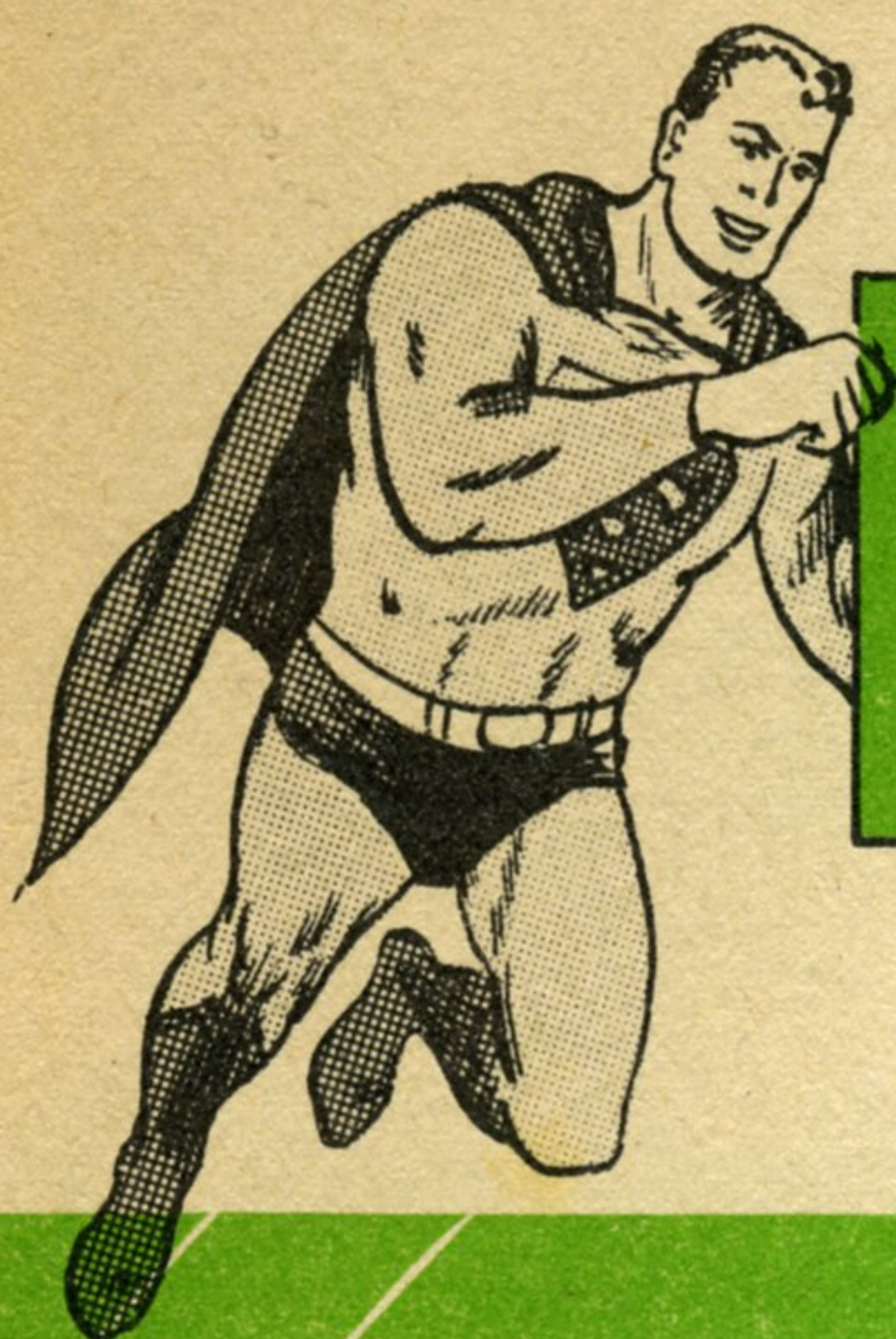
BATMAN

annual









BATMAN 1968 ANNUAL

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BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

MOST DREADED OF ALL CROOKDOM'S FOES IS THE **BATMAN**! HIS BRILLIANT GENIUS IN DETECTIVE DEDUCTION, HIS MARVELOUS ACROBATIC AGILITY AND SKILL, HIS LIMITLESS KNOWLEDGE OF CRIMESTERS' TRICKS, HAVE MADE HIM AND **ROBIN** THE TERROR OF THE UNDERWORLD! BUT WHAT IF **BATMAN** FORGOT ALL THESE GREAT TALENTS? IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE -- BUT IT **HAPPENS**, WHEN HIS MIND BLANKS OUT AND **ROBIN** HAS TO TEACH HIM...

HOW TO BE THE BATMAN!

SWING DOWN ON YOUR ROPE, BATMAN -- THE WAY I TAUGHT YOU!

BOB KANE

IN THE DARK HOURS WHEN CRIME
INVADES THE STREETS OF GOTHAM
CITY, A FATEFUL BEAM STABS THE
MIDNIGHT SKY --THE **BAT-SIGNAL!**



AND BRUCE
WAYNE AND DICK
GRAYSON MUST
AGAIN RESUME
THE SECRET
IDENTITIES IN
WHICH THEY
TIRELESSLY
BATTLE WRONG-
DOERS!

THE **BAT-SIGNAL!**
AND I'D COUNTED
ON A QUIET
EVENING!

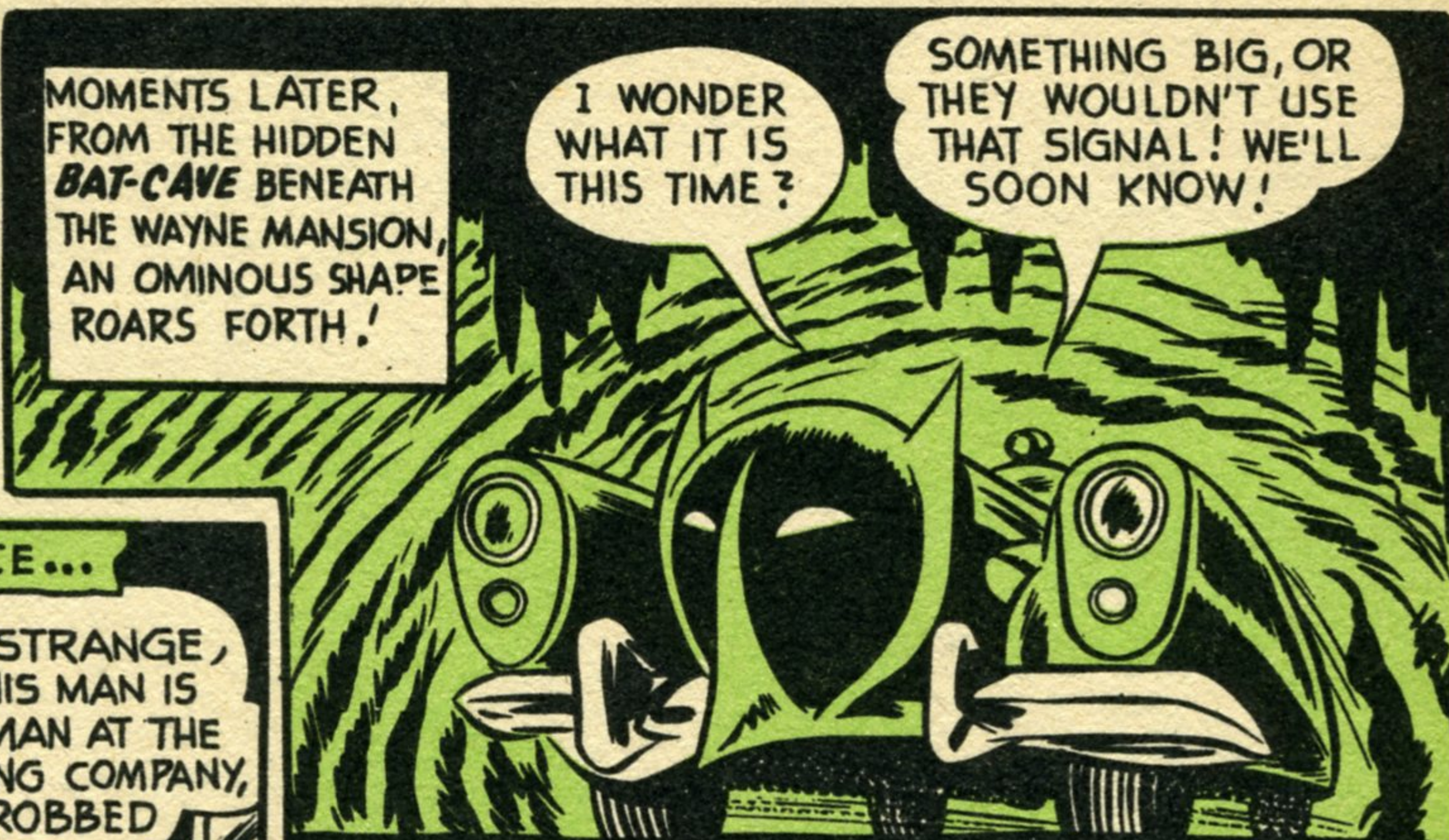
COMMISSIONER GORDON
WANTS US, SO WE'D
BETTER BECOME
BATMAN AND
ROBIN--FAST!



MOMENTS LATER,
FROM THE HIDDEN
BAT-CAVE BENEATH
THE WAYNE MANSION,
AN OMINOUS SHAPE
ROARS FORTH!

I WONDER
WHAT IT IS
THIS TIME?

SOMETHING BIG, OR
THEY WOULDN'T USE
THAT SIGNAL! WE'LL
SOON KNOW!



AT COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...

WHAT IS IT,
COMMISSIONER?

SOMETHING STRANGE,
BATMAN! THIS MAN IS
NIGHT WATCHMAN AT THE
AJAX IMPORTING COMPANY,
WHICH WAS ROBBED
AN HOUR AGO!



BATMAN, LITTLE CAN YOU GUESS WHAT GRIM, IRONIC
FATE IS HATCHING FOR YOU THIS TIME--A FATEFUL
END TO YOUR WHOLE CAREER!

"WHEN OUR MEN GOT THERE, THEY FOUND THE
WATCHMAN BEREFT OF HIS SENSES..."

HE'S FOR-
GOTTEN EVERY-
THING ABOUT
HIMSELF!

A BLOW
ON THE
HEAD CAN
SOMETIMES
CAUSE
AMNESIA!

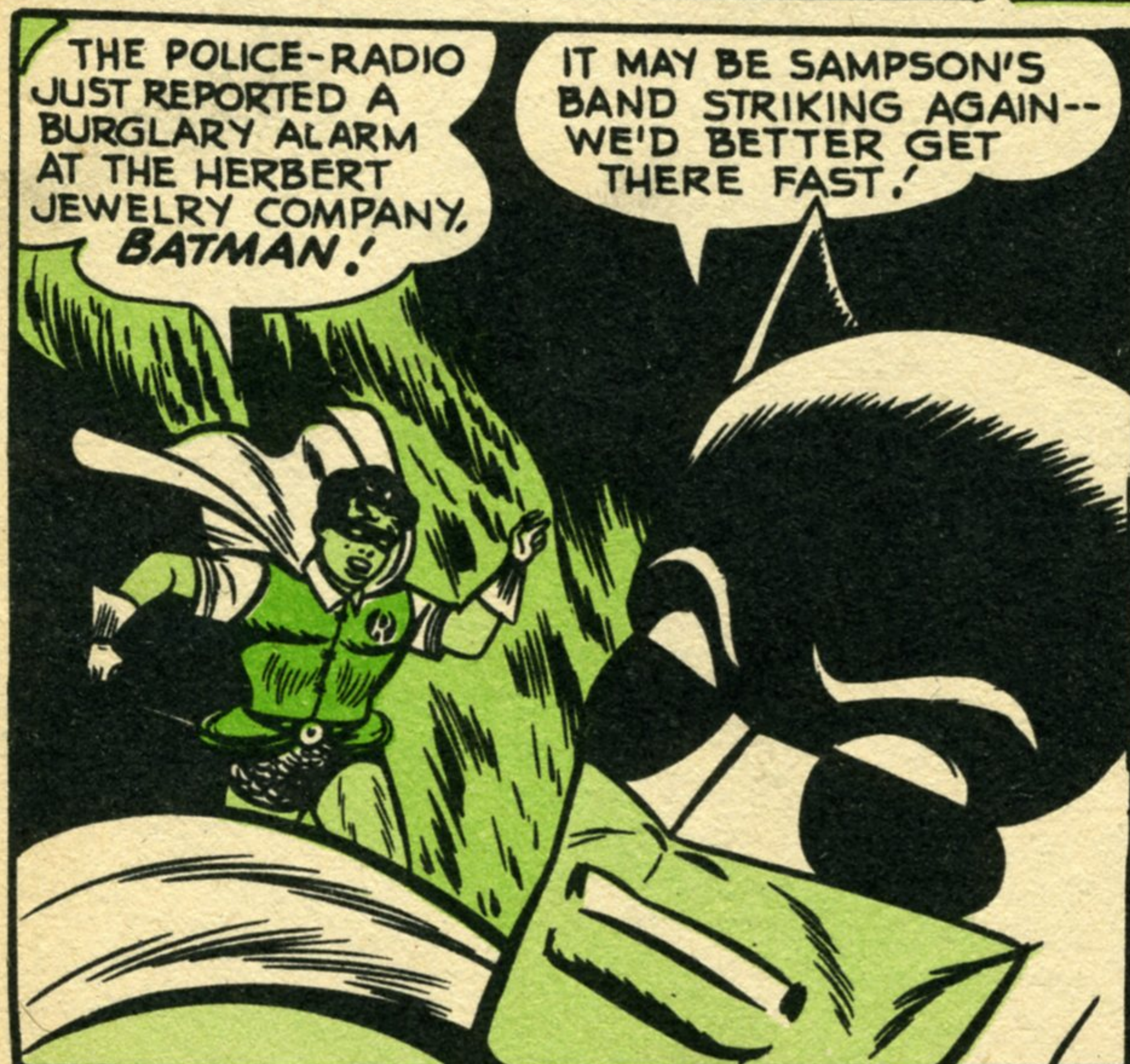
YES, BUT
THIS MAN HAS
NOT BEEN
STUNNED!
THERE'S NO
SIGN OF
INJURY!



TOO LATE--THE
THIEVES ARE GONE!
BUT WHAT'S THE
MATTER WITH THE
GUARD?

WHO AM I?
WHAT AM I DOING
HERE? I CAN'T
REMEMBER!

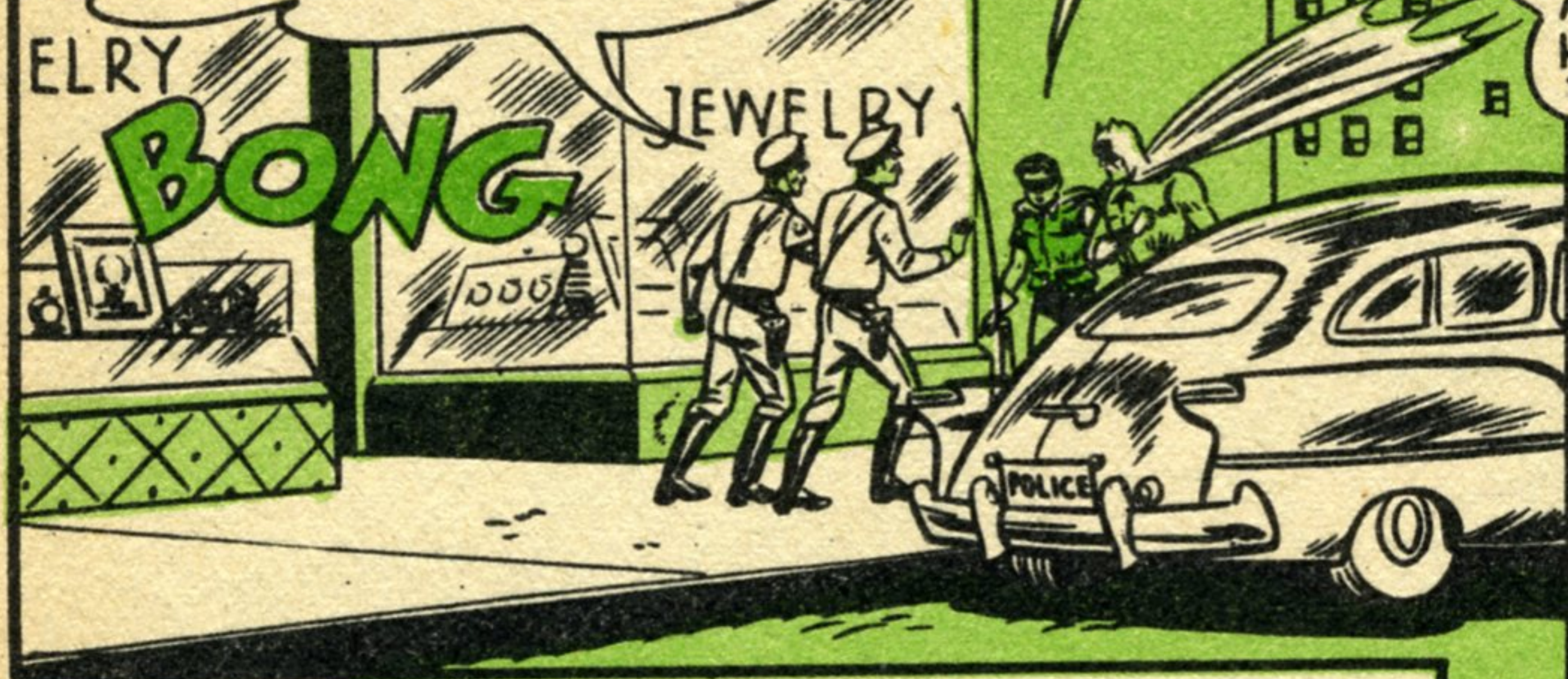




BUT IT'S A **FALSE** ALARM THAT THIS TIME HAS SUMMONED THE DUO!

WE FOUND NO ONE HERE AND NOTHING GONE, **BATMAN**! THE ALARM WIRES HAD SHORT-CIRCUITED --WE'RE FIXING THEM NOW!

THEN WE HAD OUR TRIP FOR NOTHING AND MIGHT AS WELL GO!



BUT WHEN THE ALARM-WIRES ARE REPAIRED AND THE DUO AND THE POLICE HAVE LEFT...

I DON'T GET IT, DR. SAMPSON--FIRST WE SET OFF A FALSE ALARM BY JIMMYING THE WIRES, AND DRAW THE LAW HERE! NOW YOU WANT TO STAGE A **REAL** ROBBERY!

PSYCHOLOGY CAN DECEIVE ANYBODY AS YOU'LL SEE!



THERE GOES THE SAFE'S BURGLAR ALARM AGAIN!

BUT THIS TIME, FIGURING IT'S ONLY THE WIRING AGAIN, THEY WON'T BE SO FAST ANSWERING IT! KNOWING PSYCHOLOGY WILL GIVE US PLENTY OF TIME TO GET AWAY!

BUT SINCE I SUSPECTED A PSYCHOLOGIST PLANNED THIS, I DECIDED TO STICK AROUND!

BATMAN AND **ROBIN** ONLY PRE-TENDED TO GO AWAY!

DON'T WORRY, WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM!



THAT'LL HOLD THE BRAT! COME ON, BOYS!

I'M TANGLED, BUT YOU CAN NAB THEM, **BATMAN**!

I WILL--PSYCHOLOGY WON'T HELP THEM NOW!



BUT WHEN, A MOMENT LATER, **ROBIN** FREES HIMSELF AND DASHES TO JOIN THE PURSUIT...

BATMAN, THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! WE'VE GOT TO CATCH THEM!

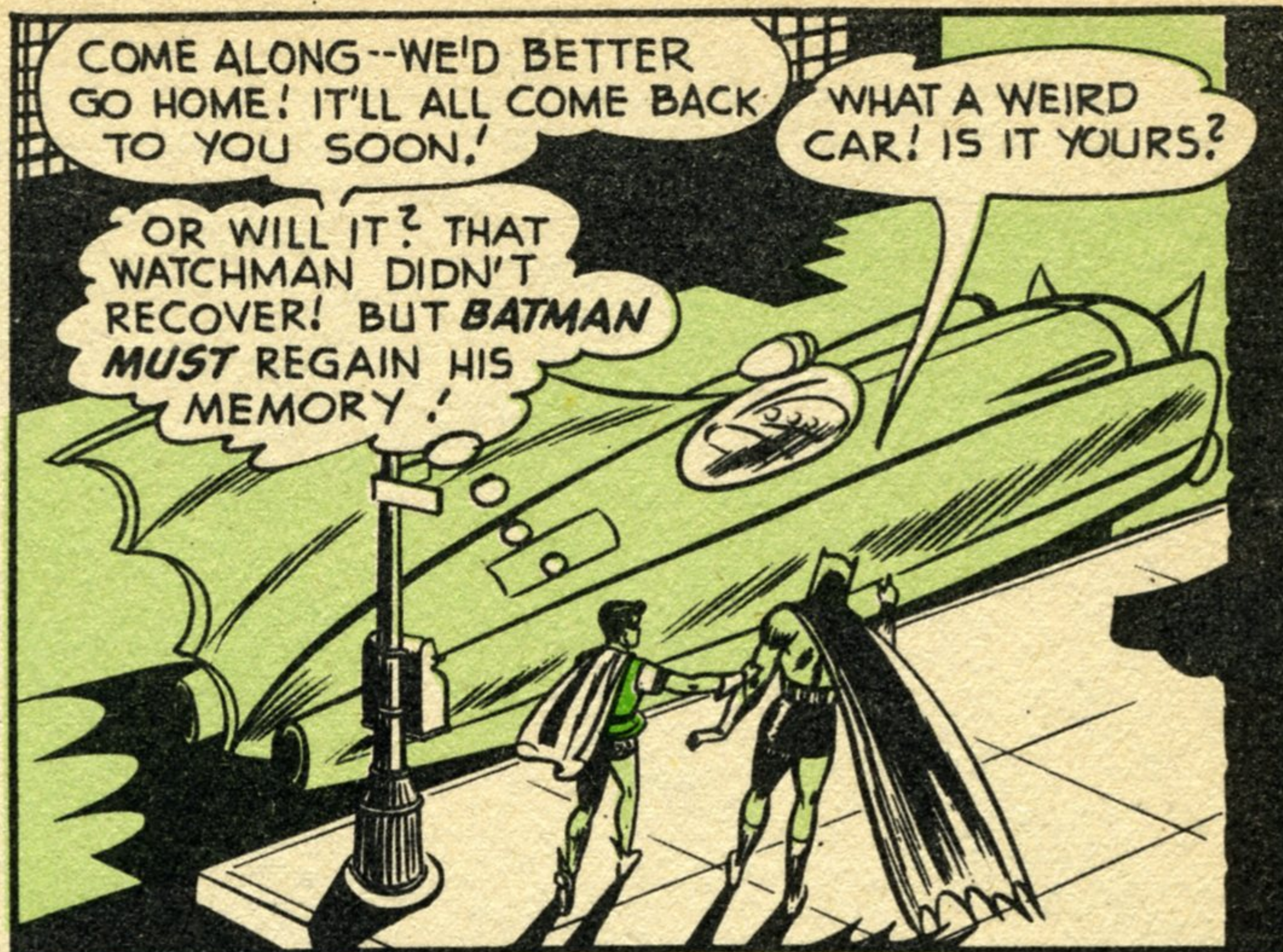
WHO--WHO ARE YOU?

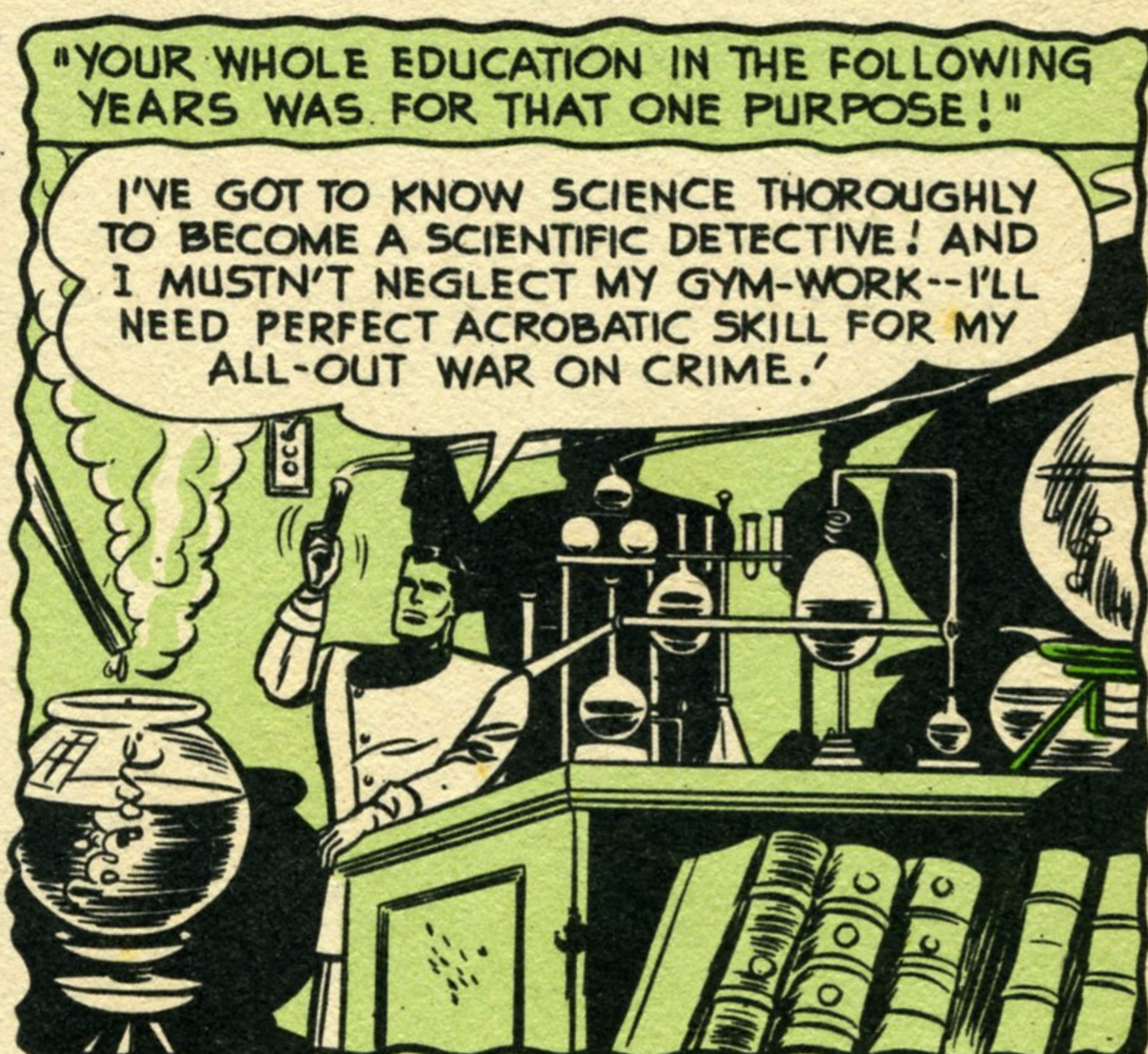
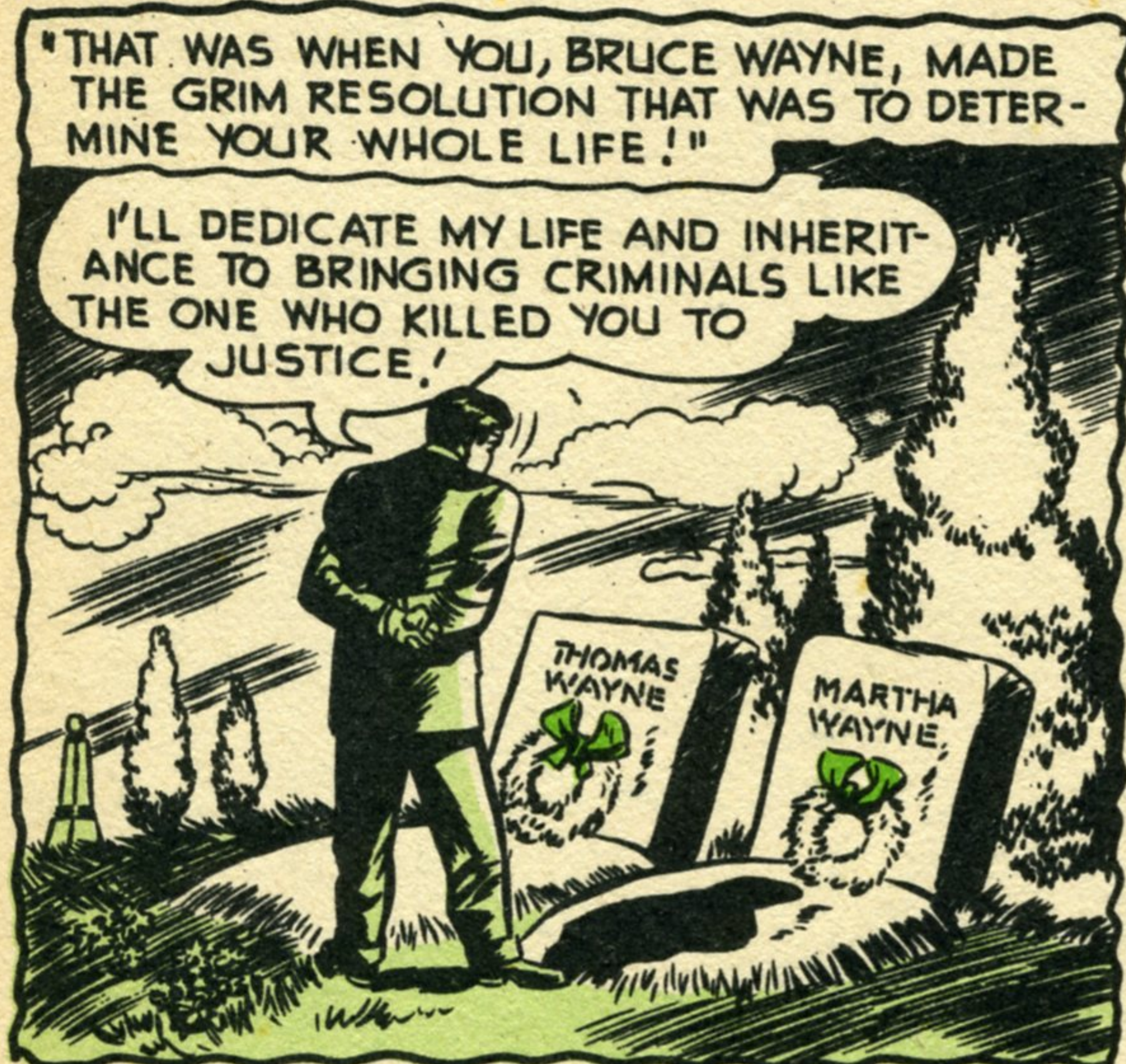
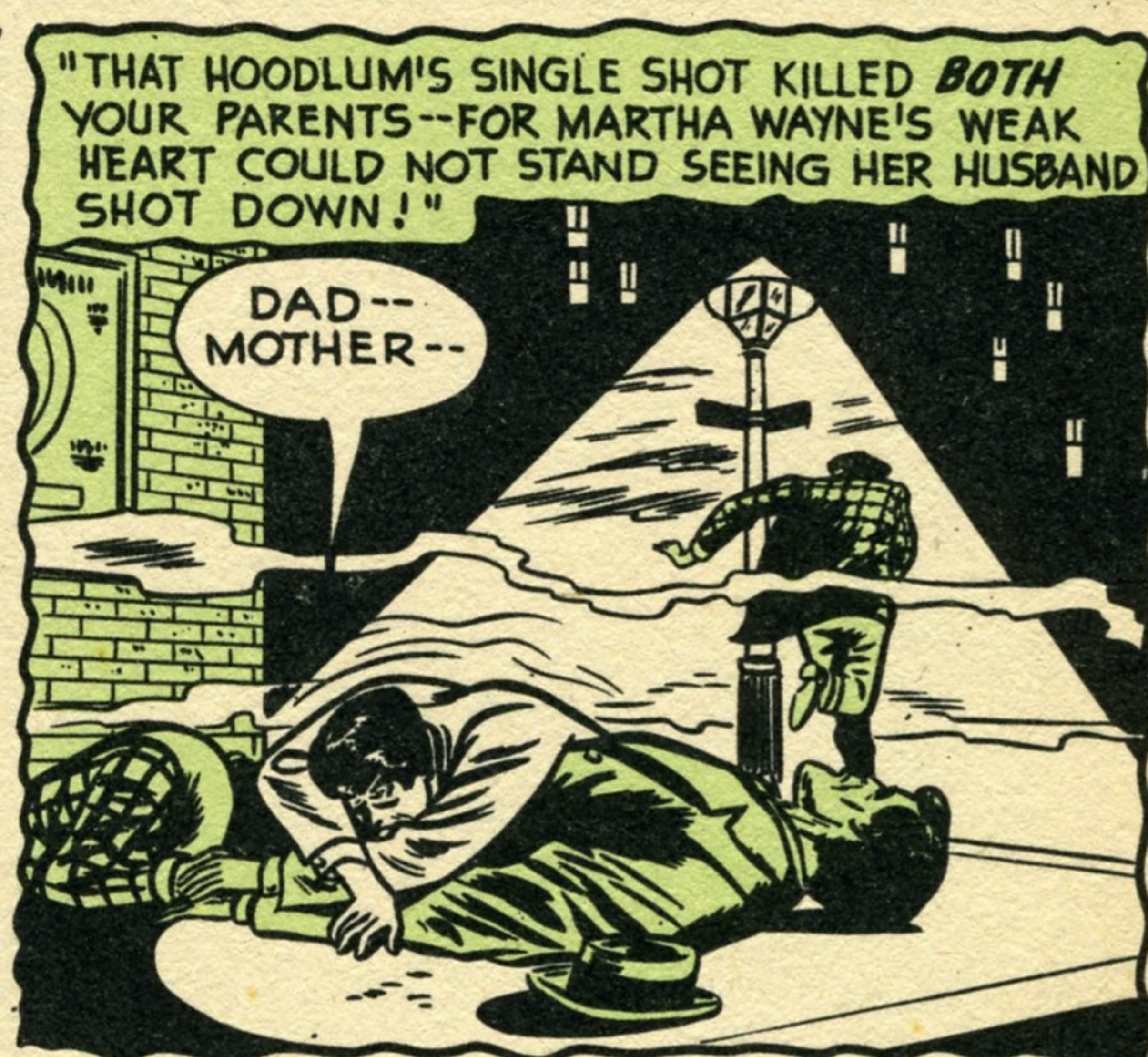
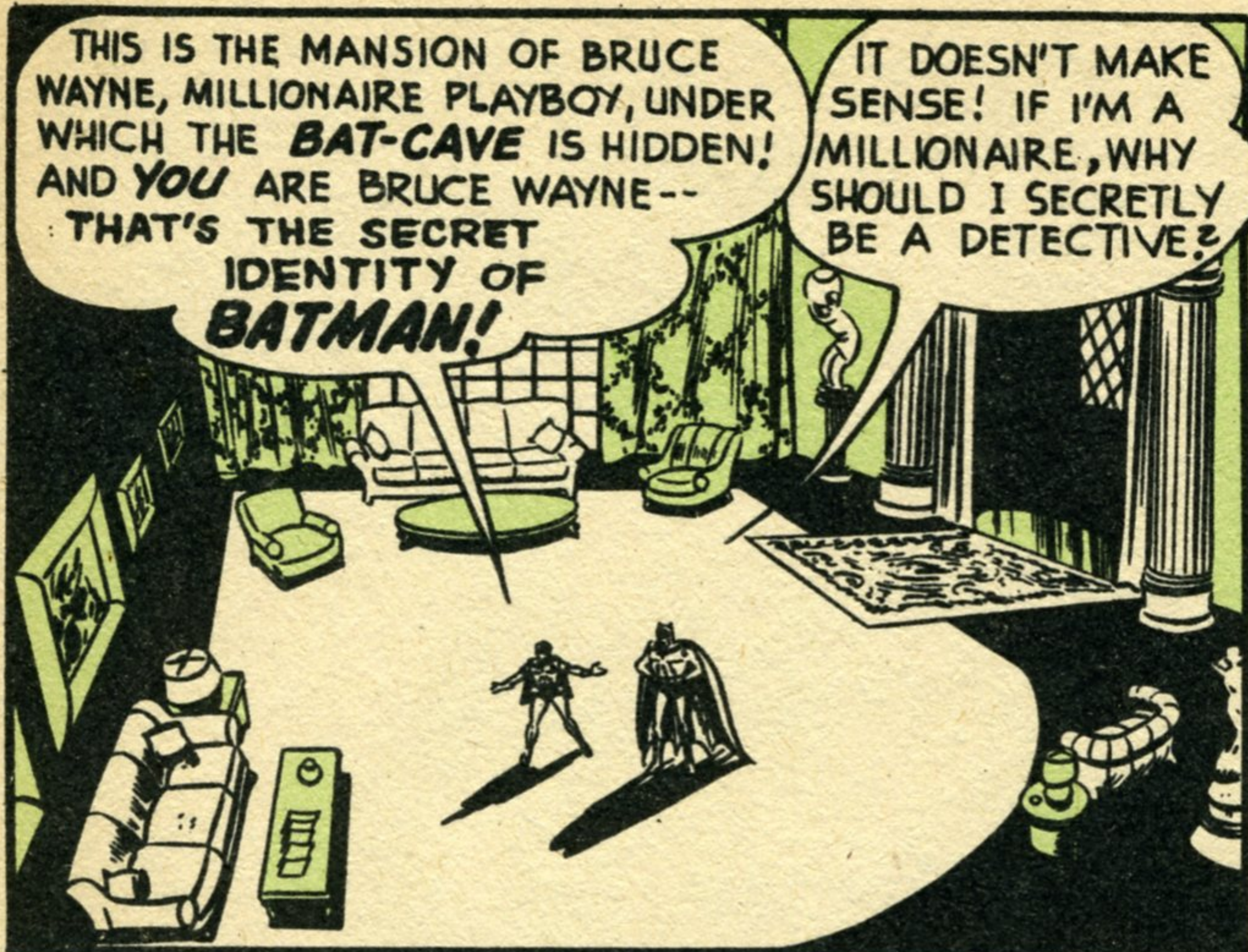


BATMAN, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

BATMAN? WHO IS **BATMAN**? AND WHO AM I?







"WHEN YOU WERE READY TO TAKE UP YOUR ROLE IN LIFE, YOU CHOSE A DISGUISE THAT WOULD STRIKE TERROR INTO SUPERSTITIOUS CRIMINALS!"

A BAT--THAT'S IT! I'LL BECOME LIKE A BAT, AN EERIE FIGURE OF THE SHADOWS--A BAT-MAN!

"WHEN MY PARENTS, THE FLYING GRAYSON ACROBATS, WERE KILLED LIKE YOURS, DUE TO CRIME, YOU ADOPTED ME AS YOUR WARD, AND TRAINED ME IN ALL YOUR SKILLS, BATMAN!"

SURELY YOU REMEMBER ALL THE CASES WE'VE WORKED ON AS BATMAN AND ROBIN! TRY TO REMEMBER!

I--I CAN'T! I'M NO DETECTIVE, SINCE I CAN REMEMBER NOTHING NOW OF WHAT I KNEW! YOU'LL HAVE TO GO ON WITHOUT ME!

NO! I WON'T LET THE GREAT CAREER OF BATMAN END LIKE THIS. SINCE YOU CAN'T REMEMBER YOUR FORMER SKILLS, I'LL TEACH THEM TO YOU AGAIN--JUST AS YOU TAUGHT ME!

I'LL TRY TO LEARN, THOUGH I'M AFRAID IT'S HOPELESS!

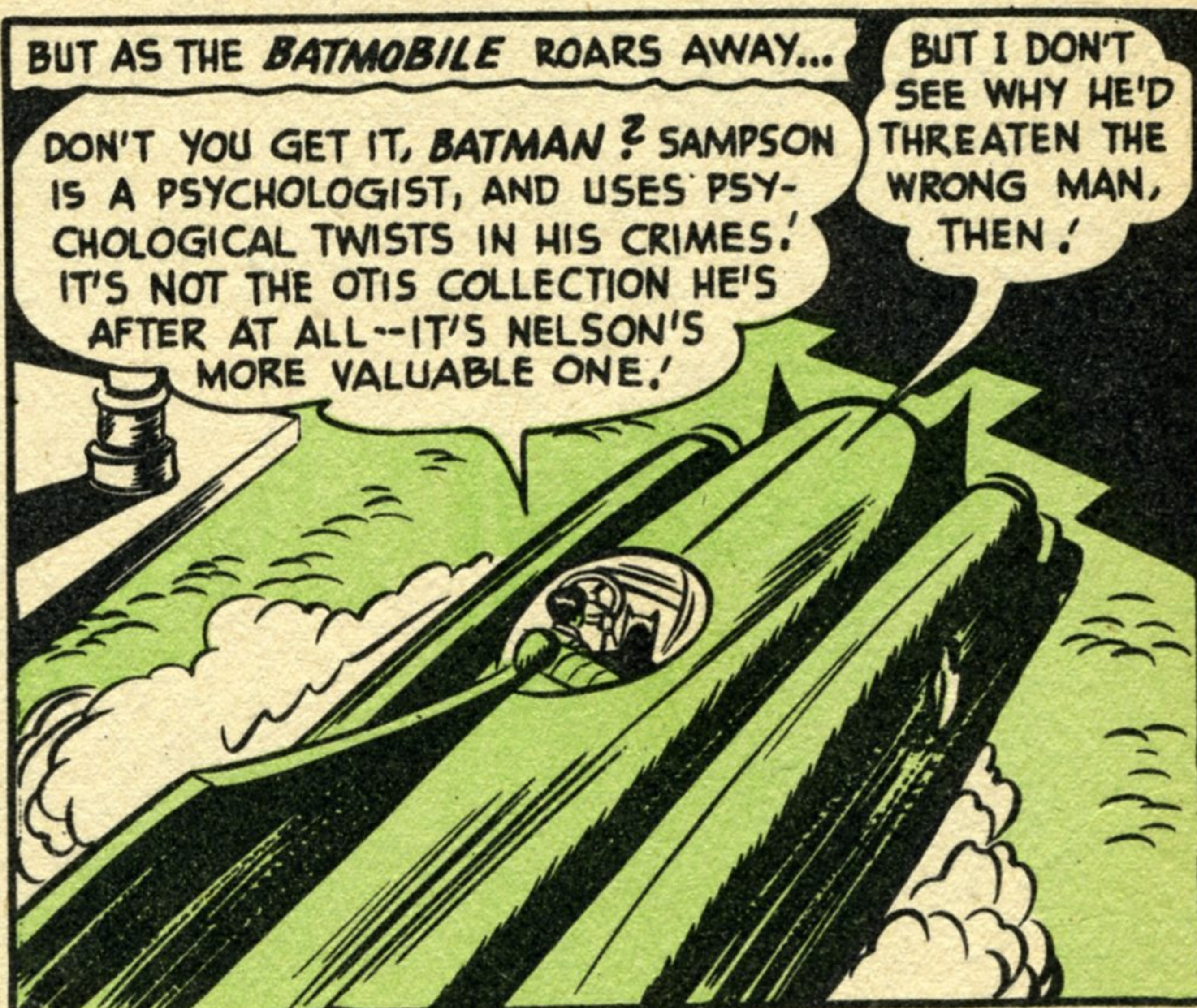
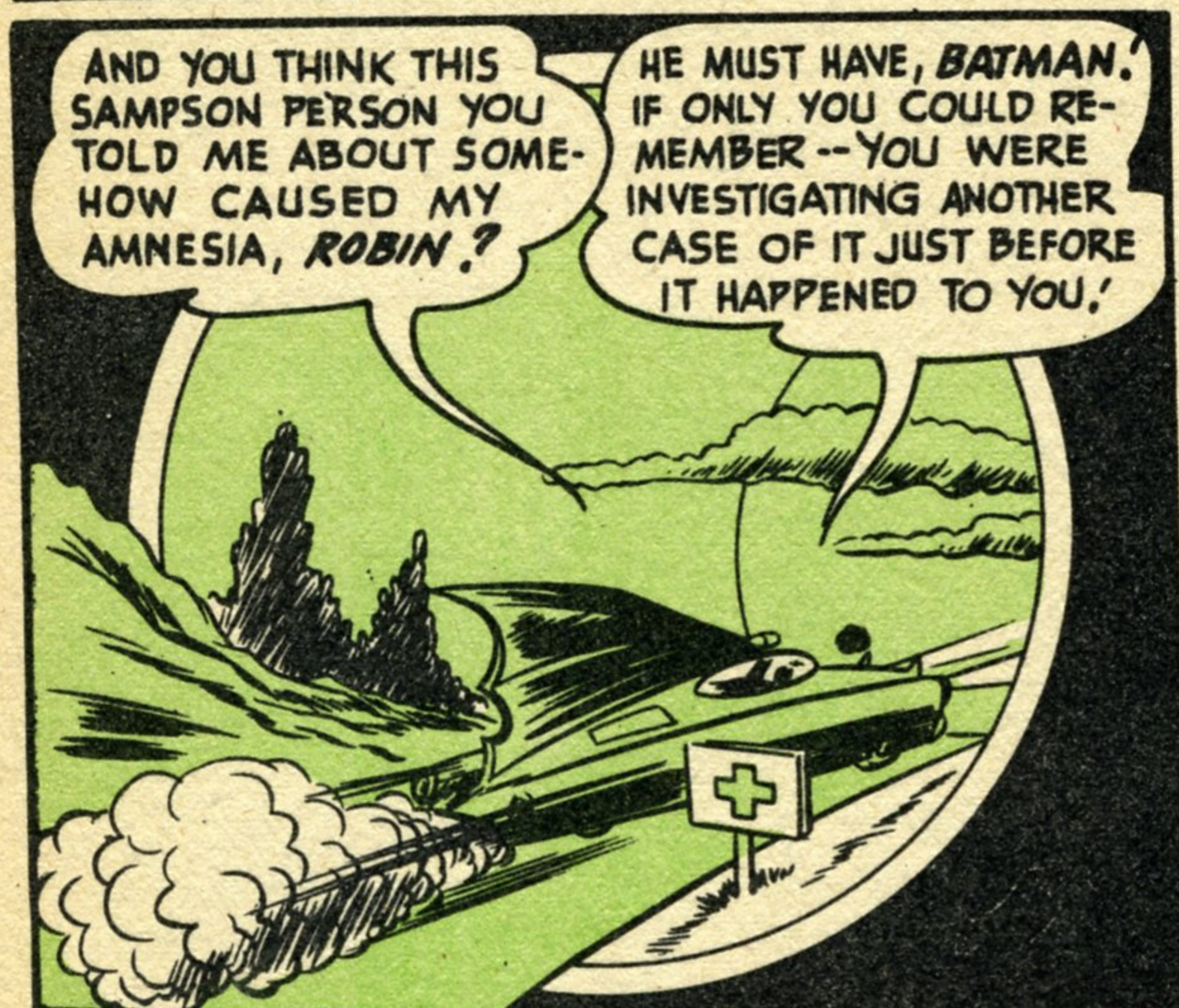
AND SO BEGINS THE RE-EDUCATION OF BATMAN!

YOU'VE SEEN OUR VARIOUS COSTUMES FOR DIFFERENT JOBS--NOW YOU CAN STUDY YOUR UTILITY BELT, WHICH CARRIES YOUR ROPE, THE TWO-WAY RADIO, AND ALL THE GADGETS YOU DREAMED UP!

I DON'T SEE HOW I CAN REMEMBER ALL THESE THINGS!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL GRAB YOU AS THOUGH YOU WERE A CROOK, SINCE YOU ASK ME TO--OOF!

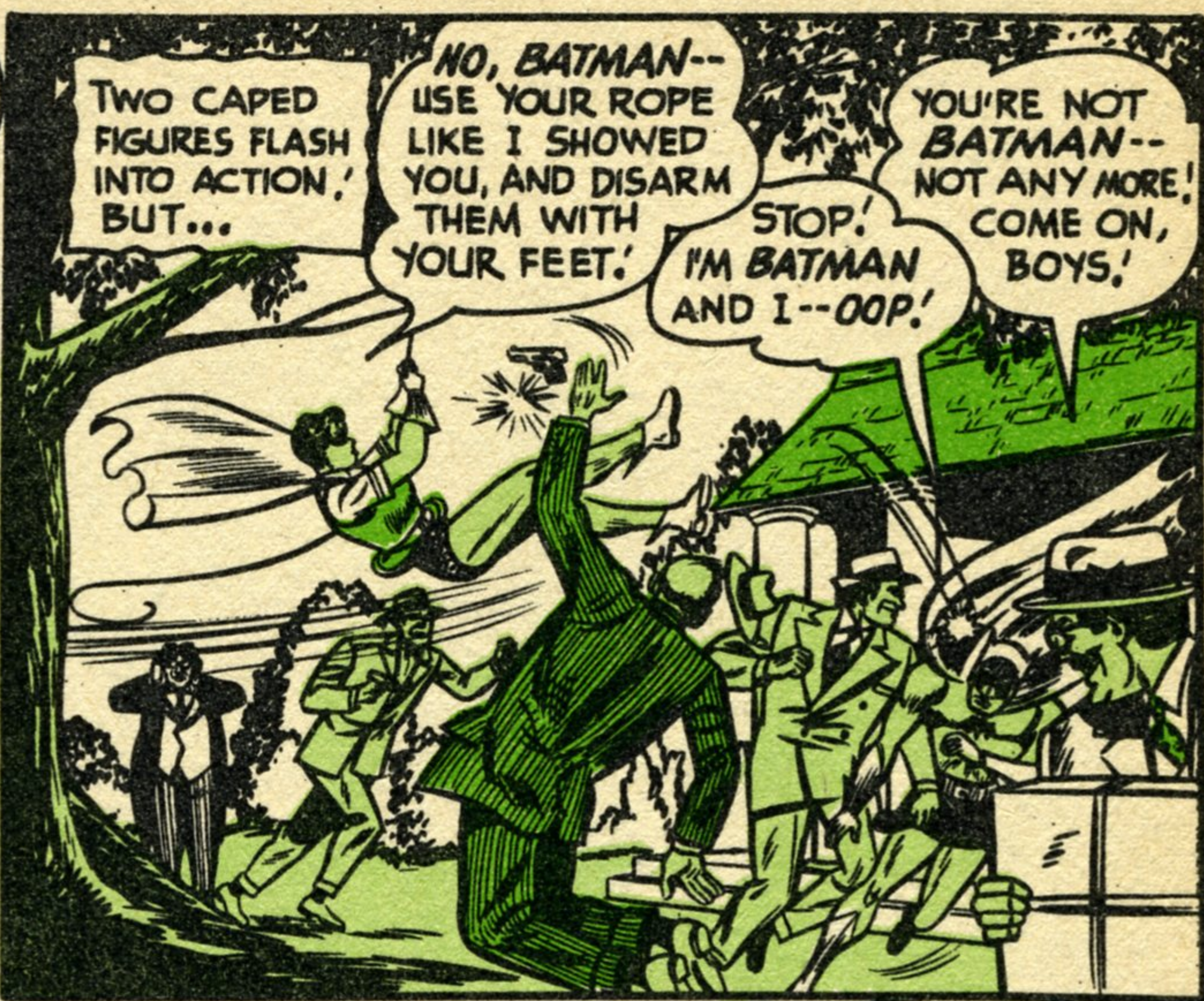
YES, BUT YOU HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR DIRTY TRICKS--LIKE THIS!





PARTLY TO MISLEAD THE POLICE, BUT MOSTLY TO ALARM NELSON INTO MOVING HIS OWN COLLECTION TO A PLACE OF SAFETY, LEST HE BE NEXT!

I HOPE I WON'T LET YOU DOWN TOO BADLY, ROBIN!

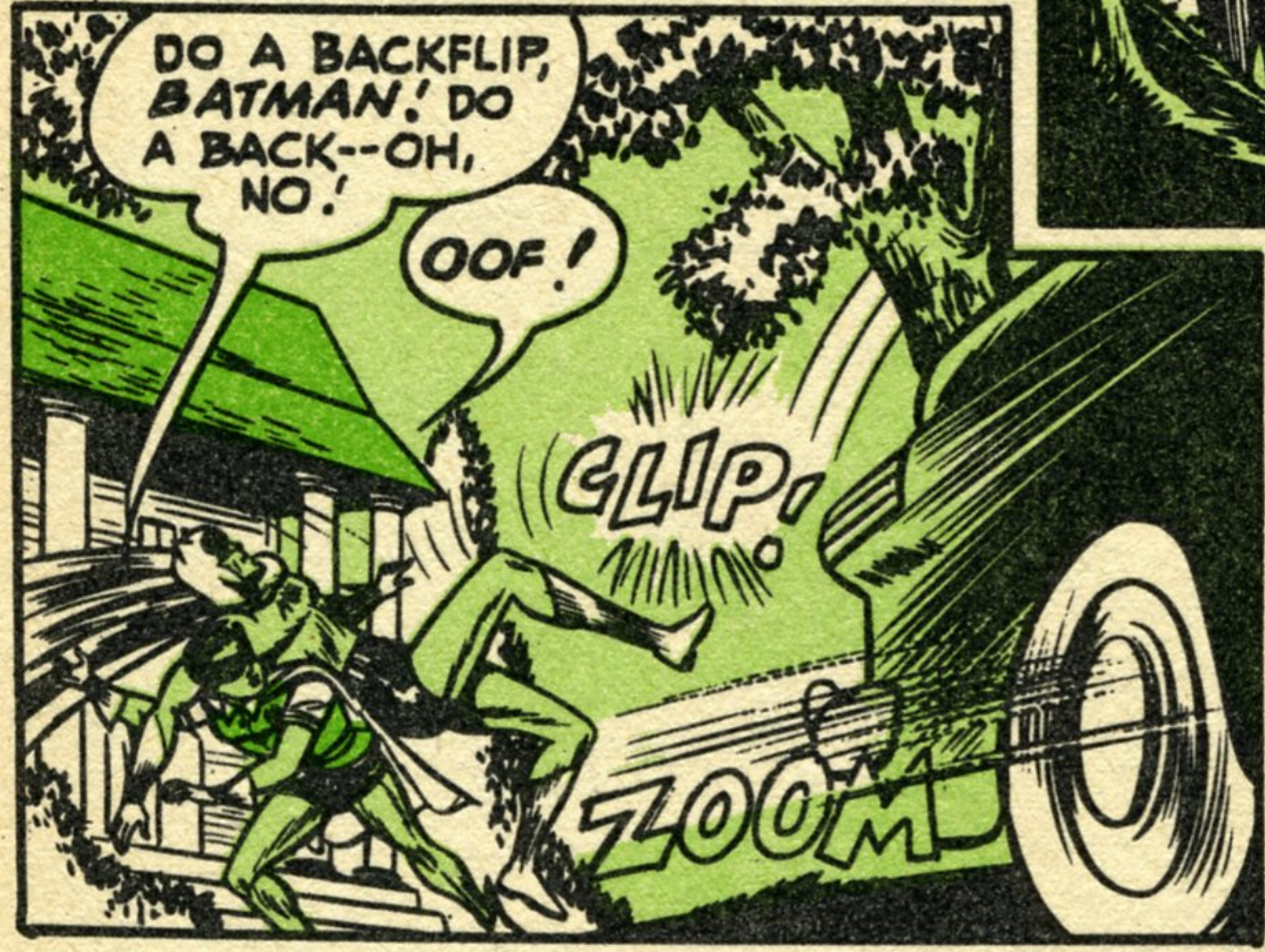


TWO CAPED FIGURES FLASH INTO ACTION, BUT...

NO, BATMAN--USE YOUR ROPE LIKE I SHOWED YOU, AND DISARM THEM WITH YOUR FEET!

STOP! I'M BATMAN AND I--OOP!

YOU'RE NOT BATMAN--NOT ANY MORE! COME ON, BOYS!

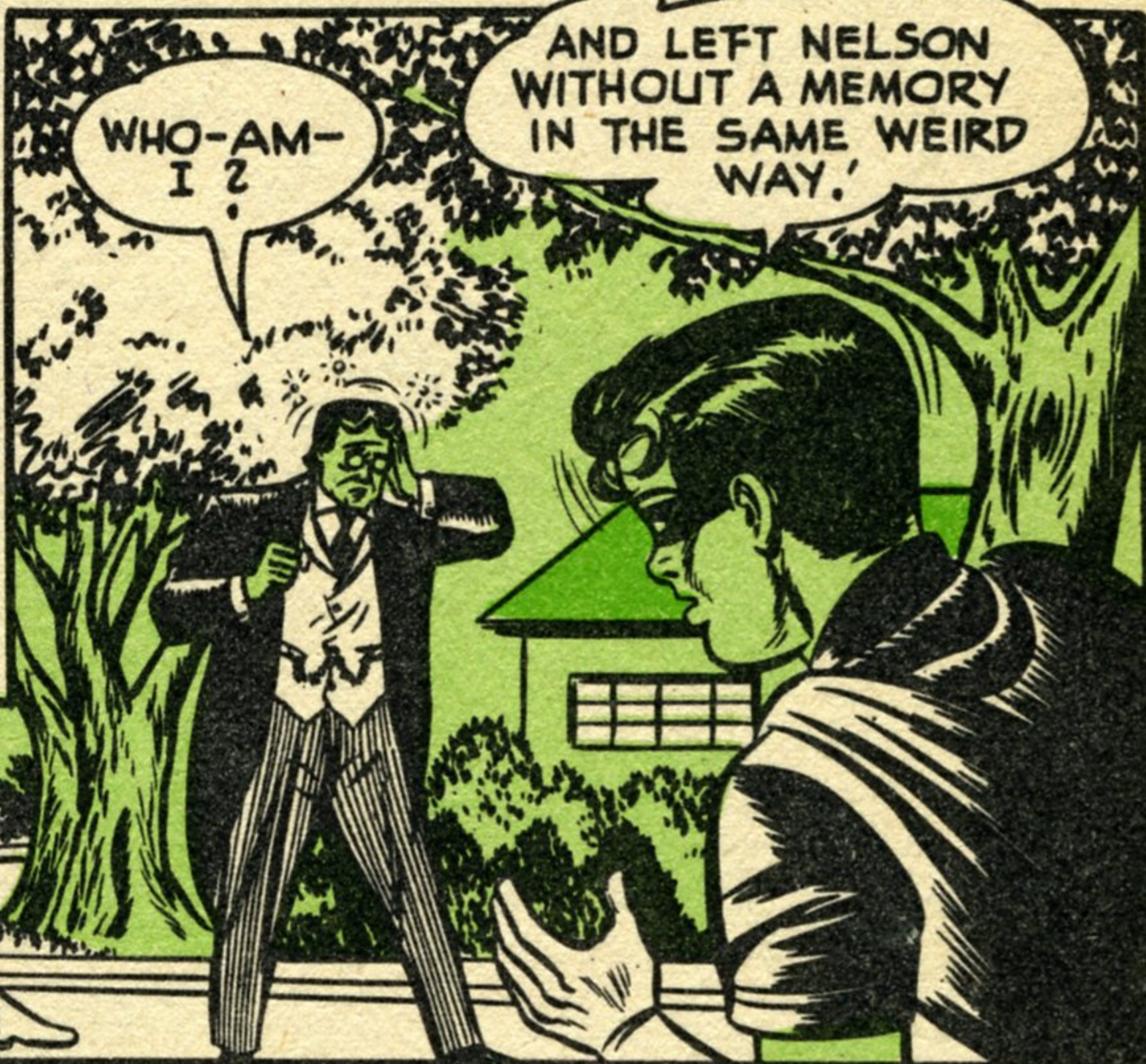


DO A BACKFLIP, BATMAN! DO A BACK--OH, NO!

OOF!

GLIP!

ZOOM!



WHO-AM-I?

AND LEFT NELSON WITHOUT A MEMORY IN THE SAME WEIRD WAY!



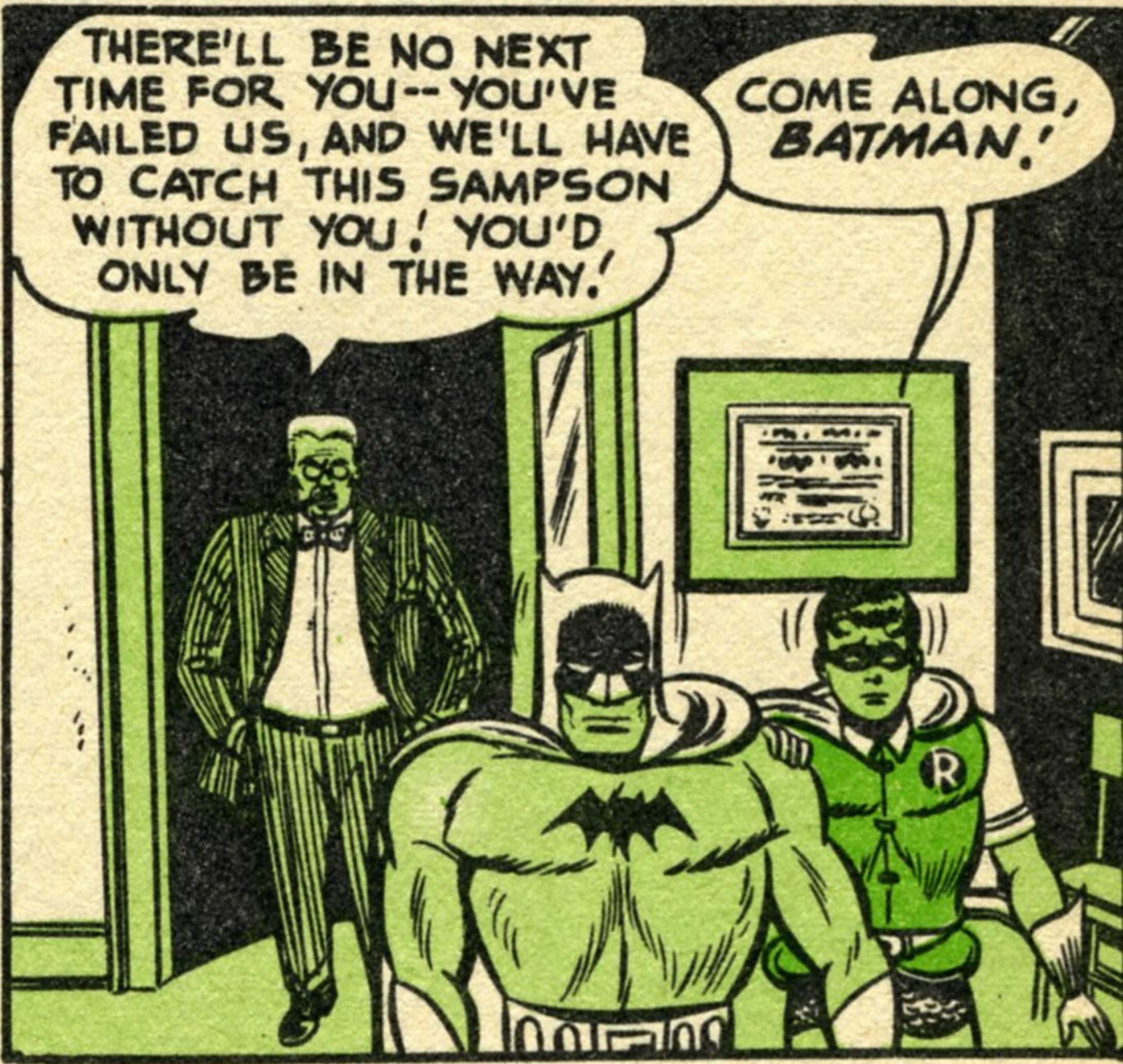
THEY GOT AWAY!



LATER...

BATMAN, YOU FAILED BADLY! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT--WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

I--ER--I'LL BE ALL RIGHT NEXT TIME!



THERE'LL BE NO NEXT TIME FOR YOU--YOU'VE FAILED US, AND WE'LL HAVE TO CATCH THIS SAMPSON WITHOUT YOU! YOU'D ONLY BE IN THE WAY!

COME ALONG, BATMAN!

LATER, THE TRAGIC REALIZATION OF A CAREER THAT IS FINISHED FOREVER!

I KNOW NOW I'M THROUGH! YOU COULD BE A GREAT DETECTIVE WITHOUT ME HAMPERING YOU, **ROBIN**! FROM NOW ON, IT WILL BE **ROBIN**-- NOT **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**--AGAINST CRIME!

NO, **BATMAN**-- I COULDN'T REPLACE YOU! NOBODY COULD!



YOUR GREAT SCIENTIFIC SKILL COULD HAVE SOLVED THIS AMNESIA-MYSTERY! YOU WERE WORKING ON IT IN THE LAB WHEN WE WERE INTERRUPTED, BUT HAD NO TIME TO TELL ME ANYTHING--AND THEN YOU LOST ALL MEMORY!

MAYBE WE COULD FIND OUT WHAT I LEARNED WHEN I STILL HAD MY MEMORY! LET'S LOOK IN THE LAB!



AND IN THE **BAT-CAVE'S** CRIME-LABORATORY, A MAN WITHOUT MEMORY TRIES TO DEDUCE HIS OWN PAST!

YOU WERE STUDYING BLOOD-SAMPLES FROM THAT AMNESIA-STRICKEN WATCHMAN--BUT YOU MADE NO NOTES HERE, SO WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU FOUND!

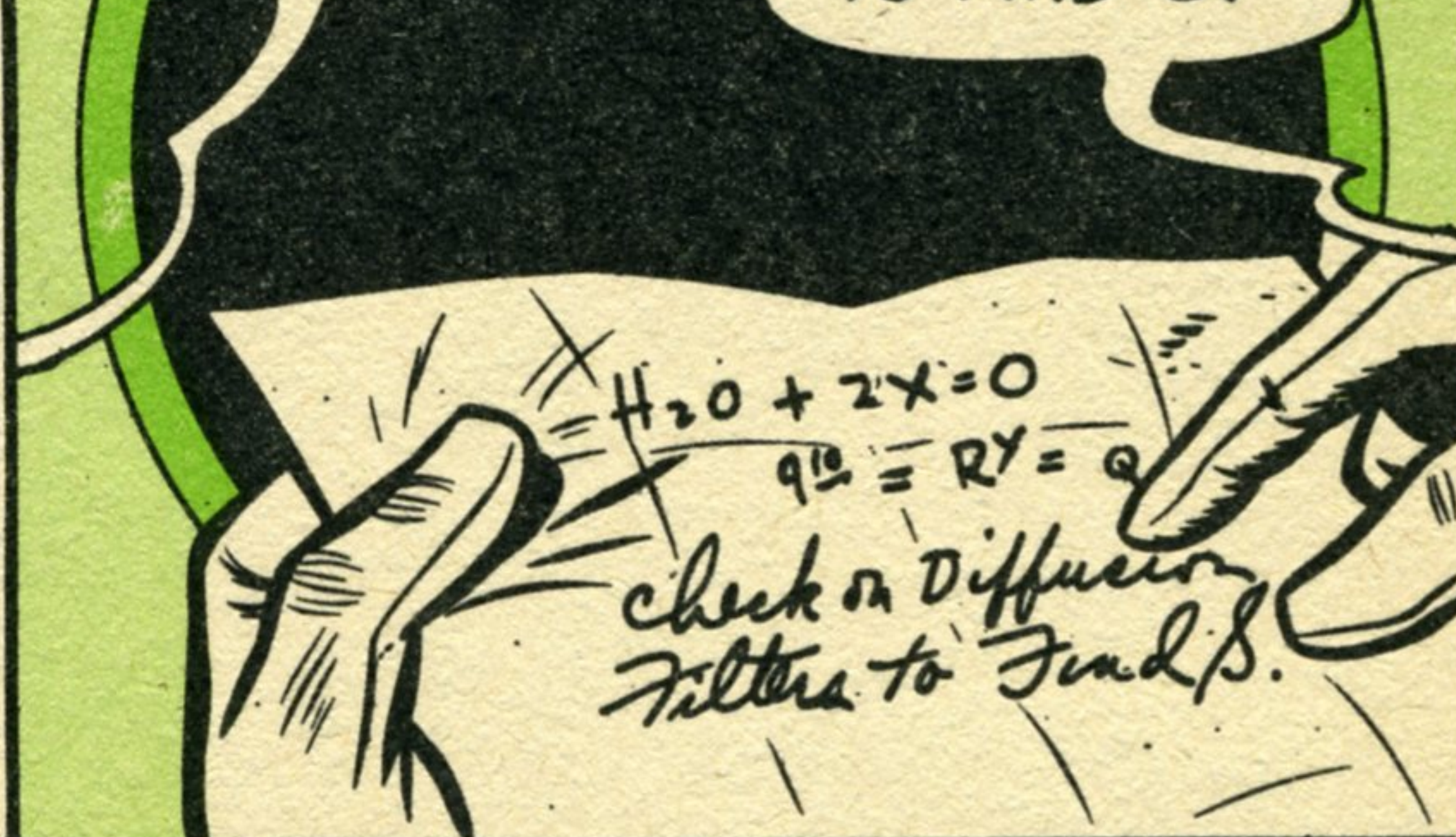
BUT THAT PENCIL INDICATES I *DID* MAKE NOTES! IF YOU INTERRUPTED ME, I MIGHT HAVE HASTILY PUT THEM IN MY POCKET! WE'LL SEE!



A POCKET OF **BATMAN'S** COSTUME YIELDS A FORGOTTEN CLUE!

THIS SEEMS TO BE MY HANDWRITING--THESE MUST BE THE NOTES I MADE!

THERE'S NOTHING BUT A CHEMICAL FORMULA, AND THE WORDS, "CHECK ON DIFFUSION FILTERS TO FIND S."



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN--BUT MY GUESS IS THAT THE CHEMICAL FORMULA WAS AN **ANTIDOTE** I WORKED OUT FOR THE STRANGE AMNESIA I WAS STUDYING! **ROBIN**, I'M GOING TO MIX THAT FORMULA AND TRY IT ON MYSELF!

BATMAN, IT'S TOO RISKY--YOUR GUESS COULD BE WRONG!



BUT THE DESPERATE **BATMAN** MIXES THE UNKNOWN FORMULA, AND...

I KNOW YOU'D RISK ANYTHING TO REGAIN YOUR MEMORY, BUT THIS IS TOO DANGEROUS!

I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE CHANCE!



BUT THE EXPERIMENT FAILS...

NOTHING HAPPENED--I STILL CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING! THEN IT WASN'T AN AMNESIA-ANTIDOTE AFTER ALL! ROBIN, IT'S HOPELESS!

NO, THERE'S STILL THE OTHER CLUE--WE MIGHT STILL FIND SAMPSON--"S."--THROUGH IT! DIFFUSION FILTERS ARE BIG, COSTLY EQUIPMENT--WE'LL CHECK UP ON THEM AS YOU HAD PLANNED!

SOON, IN A CHEMICAL SUPPLY FIRM...

YES, WE DID SELL ONE OF THESE GAS DIFFUSION-FILTERS NOT LONG AGO--IT WAS DELIVERED TO A PARTY AT 13 GREEN STREET!

WE'LL CHECK THAT ADDRESS!

BUT, AT 13 GREEN STREET...

BETTER SURRENDER, BATMAN, OR MY BOMB OF AMNESIA-GAS WILL DESTROY ROBIN'S MEMORY, TOO!

WE'VE GOT TO DO IT, ROBIN--I'VE BLUNDERED AGAIN AND CAN'T LET YOU BECOME LIKE ME!

SO IT WAS AMNESIA-GAS YOU USED ON YOUR VICTIMS!

YES--MY GREAT SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY, A GAS THAT OBLITERATES THE MEMORY! NOW WE'RE GOING TO USE IT FOR OUR BIGGEST COUP, AND YOU SHALL HELP US!

WE'RE GOING TO GRAB THE CURRENCY SHIPMENT SLATED TO LEAVE THE AIRPORT TODAY! WITH YOU ALONG, NO ONE WILL SUSPECT US UNTIL WE STRIKE! YOU'LL AGREE--OR BATMAN WILL LOSE HIS LIFE AS WELL AS HIS MEMORY!

I--I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DO IT! I'LL GO ALONG!

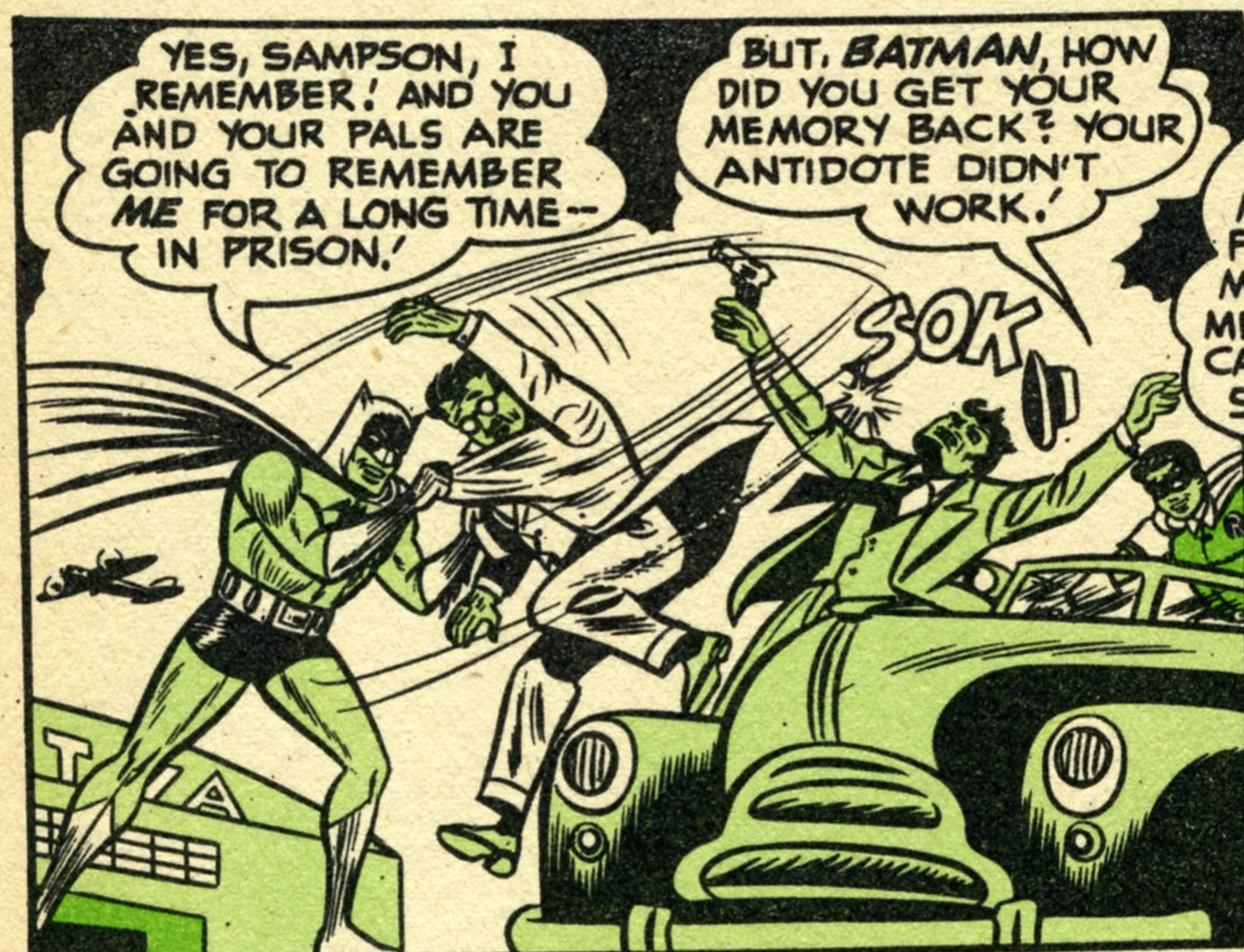
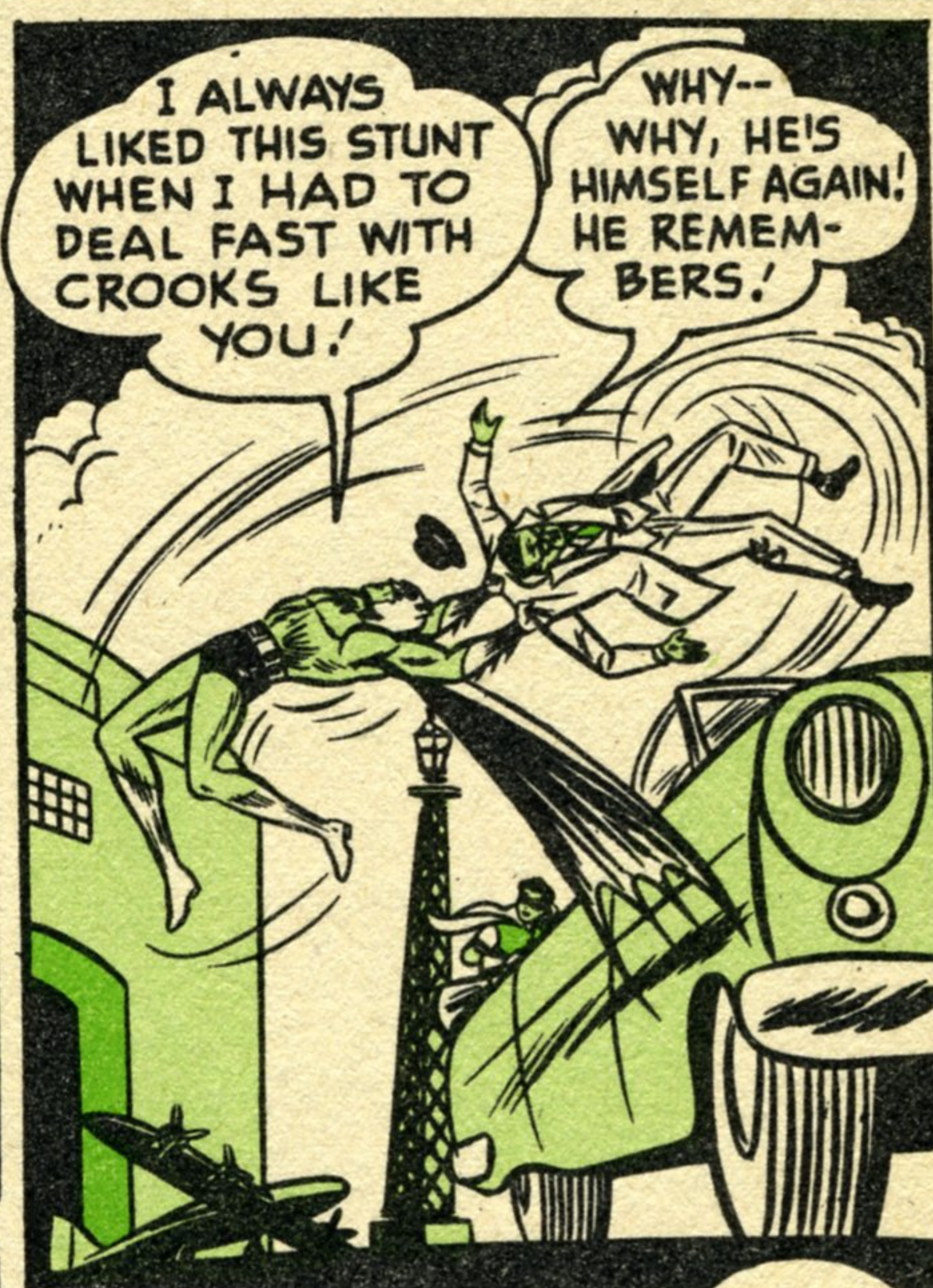
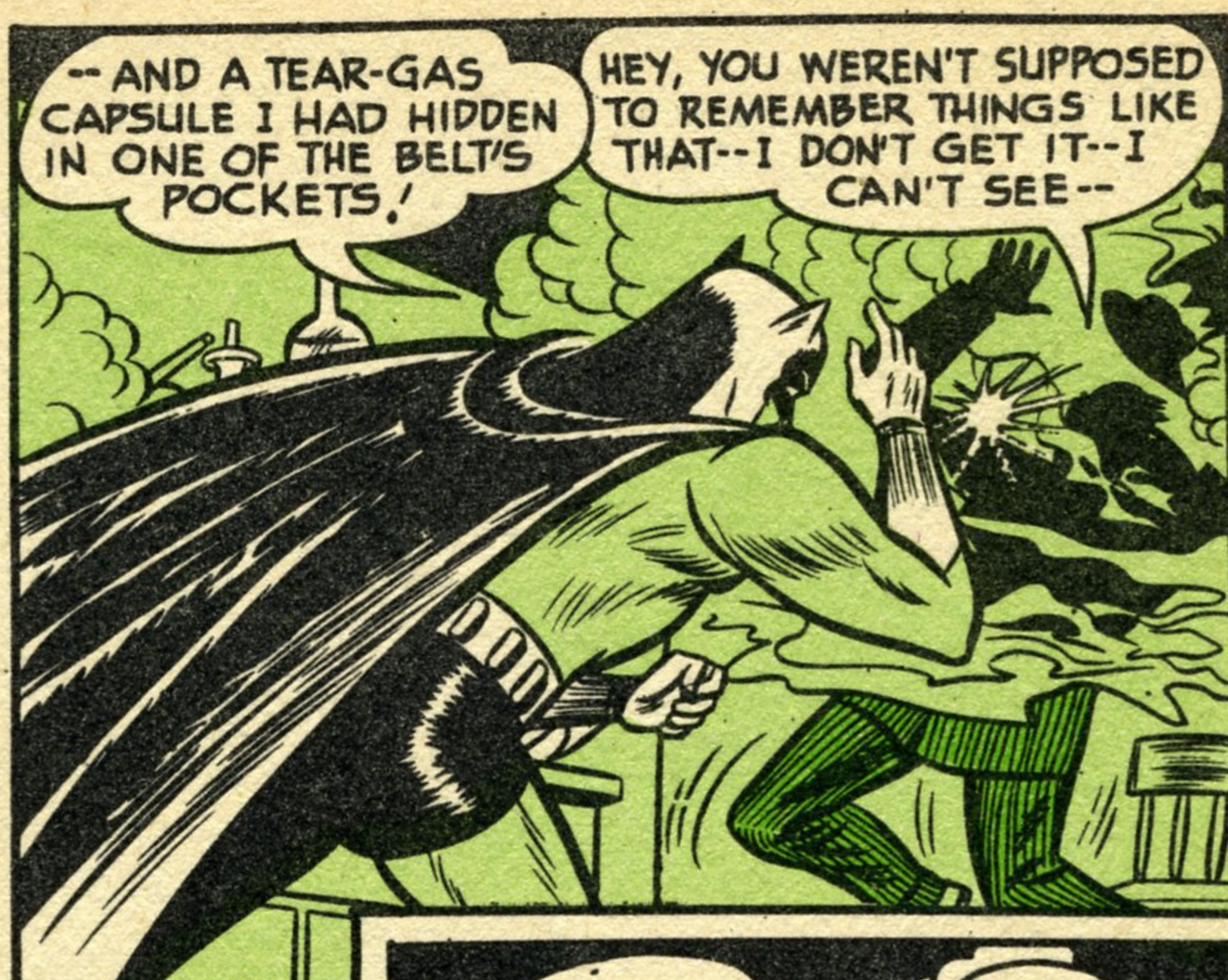
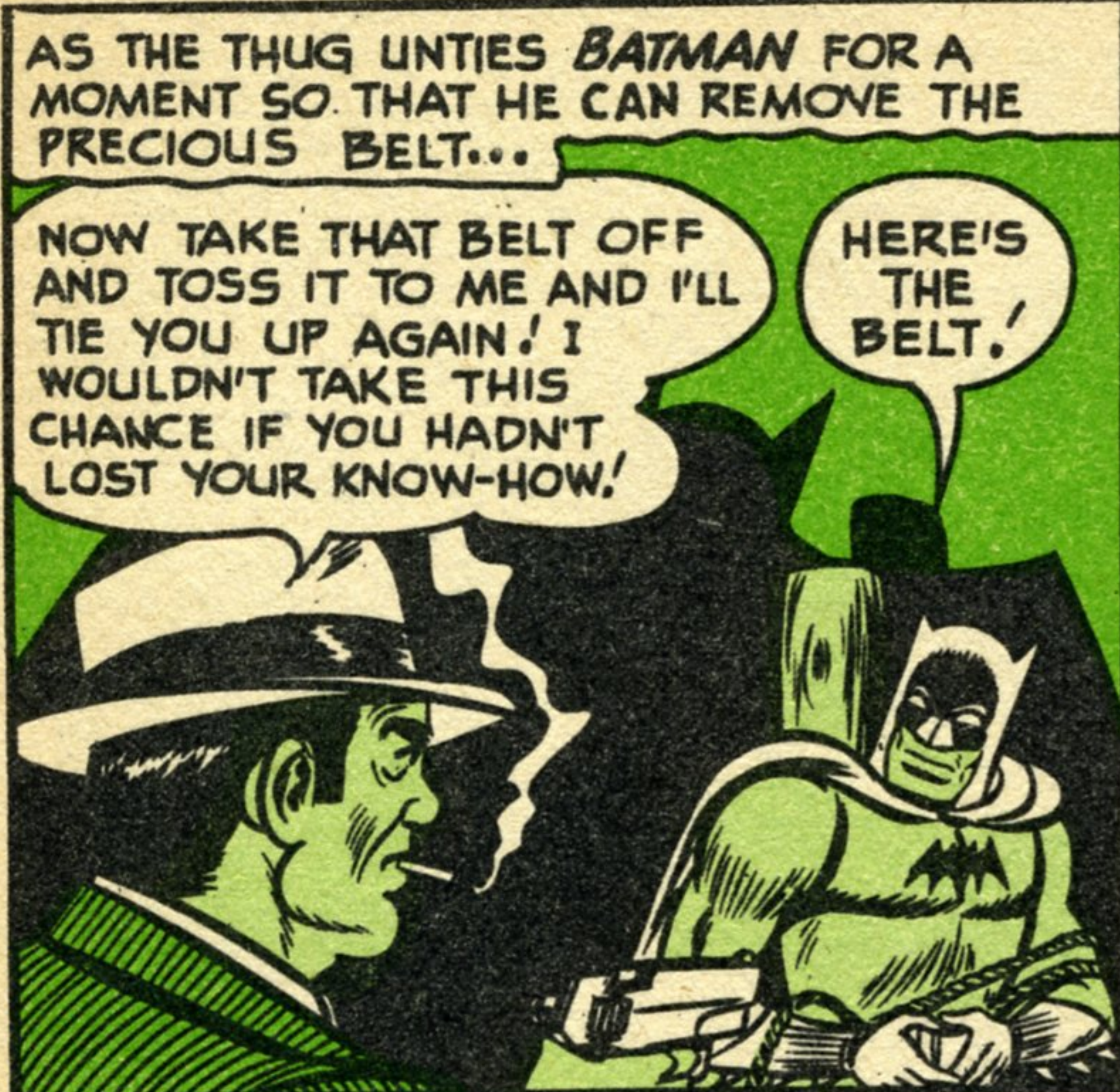
NO, ROBIN--NO--!

AS THE PSYCHOLOGIST-CROOK DEPARTS WITH ROBIN, AGONIZING MINUTES PASS FOR THE BATMAN!

MY HEAD--IT'S SWIMMING--MUST DO SOMETHING TO GET ROBIN CLEAR--!

IF YOU LET ME GO, I'LL GIVE YOU MY GREATEST TREASURE--MY UTILITY BELT!

SAY, I'VE HEARD OF THAT BELT! YOU'LL GIVE IT TO ME, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

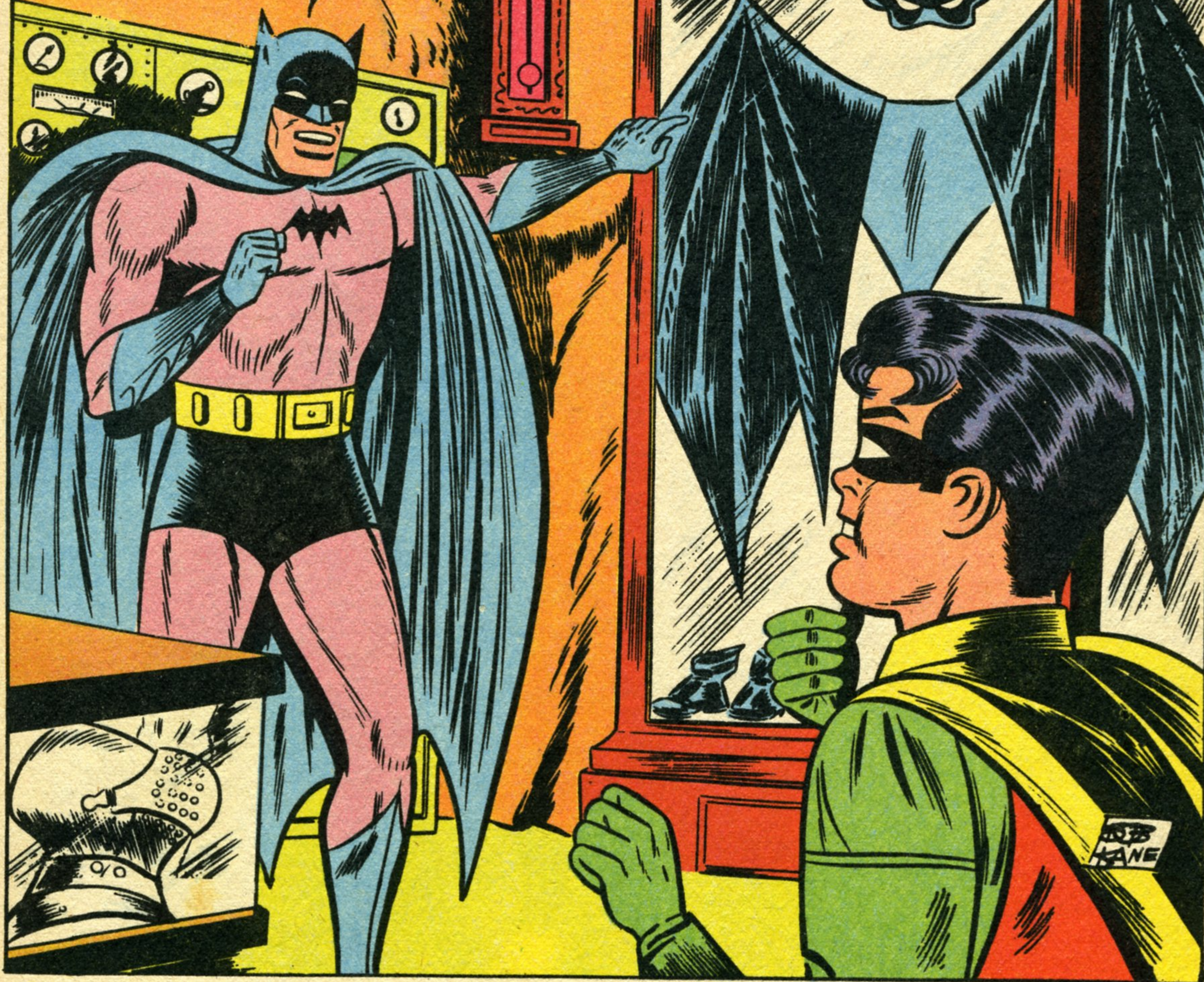


BATMAN & ROBIN

IN A HONORED SPACE IN THE BAT CAVE'S FAMED TROPHY ROOM HANGS A STRANGE YET ODDLY FAMILIAR GARB... THE COSTUME OF ANOTHER BATMAN! IMPOSSIBLE, YOU SAY? BRUCE WAYNE IS THE ONE AND ONLY... THE ORIGINAL BATMAN! WELL... HE IS... AND HE ISN'T! READ ON, AND YOU'LL LEARN THE ASTONISHING ANSWER TO THIS PARADOX... READ ON, AND YOU'LL LEARN THE INSIDE STORY OF

The FIRST BATMAN

THERE IT IS ROBIN... THE COSTUME OF A BATMAN WHO FOUGHT CRIME EVEN BEFORE I BEGAN AS A CRIME-FIGHTER!



ONE DAY, AS BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON CLEAN OUT THEIR ATTIC

TO HIS SURPRISE, BRUCE WITHDRAWS A FANTASTIC GARMENT

BRUCE! LOOK! I MUST HAVE TOUCHED A HIDDEN SPRING IN YOUR FATHER'S OLD DESK!

A SECRET DRAWER! AND THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE IT!

IT'S A KIND OF BATMAN! COSTUME!

DICK, I THINK I'VE SEEN THIS COSTUME BEFORE . . . ON MY FATHER . . . LONG, LONG AGO!



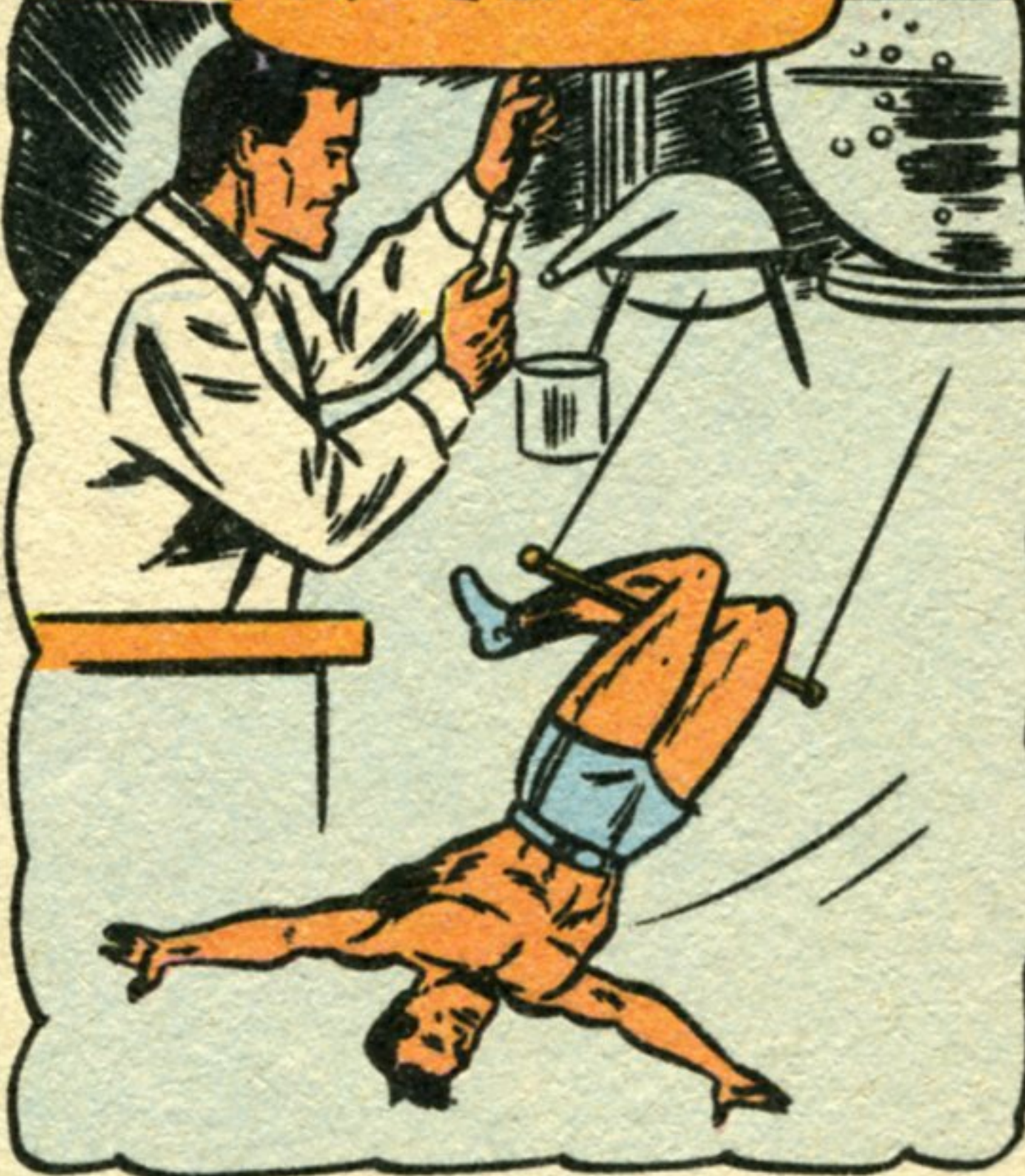
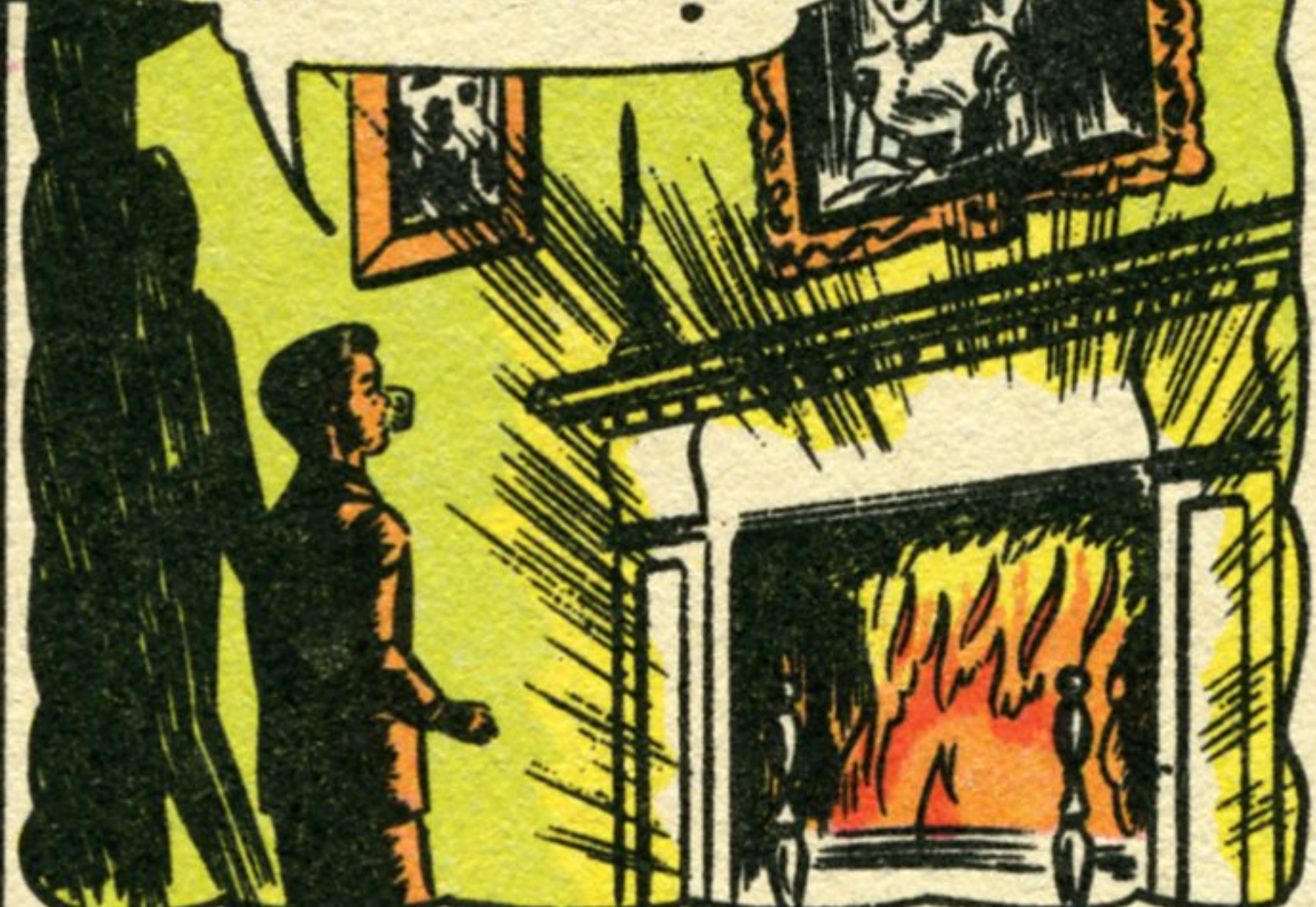
THEN THAT MEANS HE WAS A BATMAN BEFORE YOU!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I WAS THE FIRST 'BATMAN'! I ADOPTED THE FIRST BATMAN COSTUME YEARS AFTER I SAW MY PARENTS KILLED BY A ROBBER!

BRUCE'S THOUGHTS WHIRL BACK TO WHEN HE WAS A BOY AND MADE A PROMISE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS . . .

I VOW THAT I'LL DEDICATE MY LIFE TO BRING YOUR KILLER TO JUSTICE... AND TO FIGHT ALL CRIME!

AS YEARS PASSED, BRUCE MASTERED SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION... TRAINED HIS BODY TO ATHLETIC PERFECTION . . .



ONE NIGHT, HE WAS AT LAST READY FOR HIS CHOSEN CAREER, BUT HE NEEDED A DISGUISE THAT WOULD STRIKE TERROR INTO CRIMINAL HEARTS . . .

A BAT... IT'S FLOWN IN THE WINDOW! IT'S LIKE AN OMEN! I SHALL BECOME A BAT... A BATMAN!

YEARS PASSED, AND BATMAN NEVER GAVE UP HIS SEARCH FOR THE KILLER! THEN ONE DAY, WHILE INVESTIGATING A CRIMINAL NAMED JOEY CHILL . . .



BUT IRONICALLY, JOEY CHILL WAS SHOT DOWN BY OTHER MOBSTERS WHO HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM

HE'S DEAD! HIS OWN CRIMES FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM!

THIS THEN WAS THE ORIGIN OF BATMAN! THEN HOW COULD HIS FATHER HAVE BEEN A BATMAN BEFORE HIM?

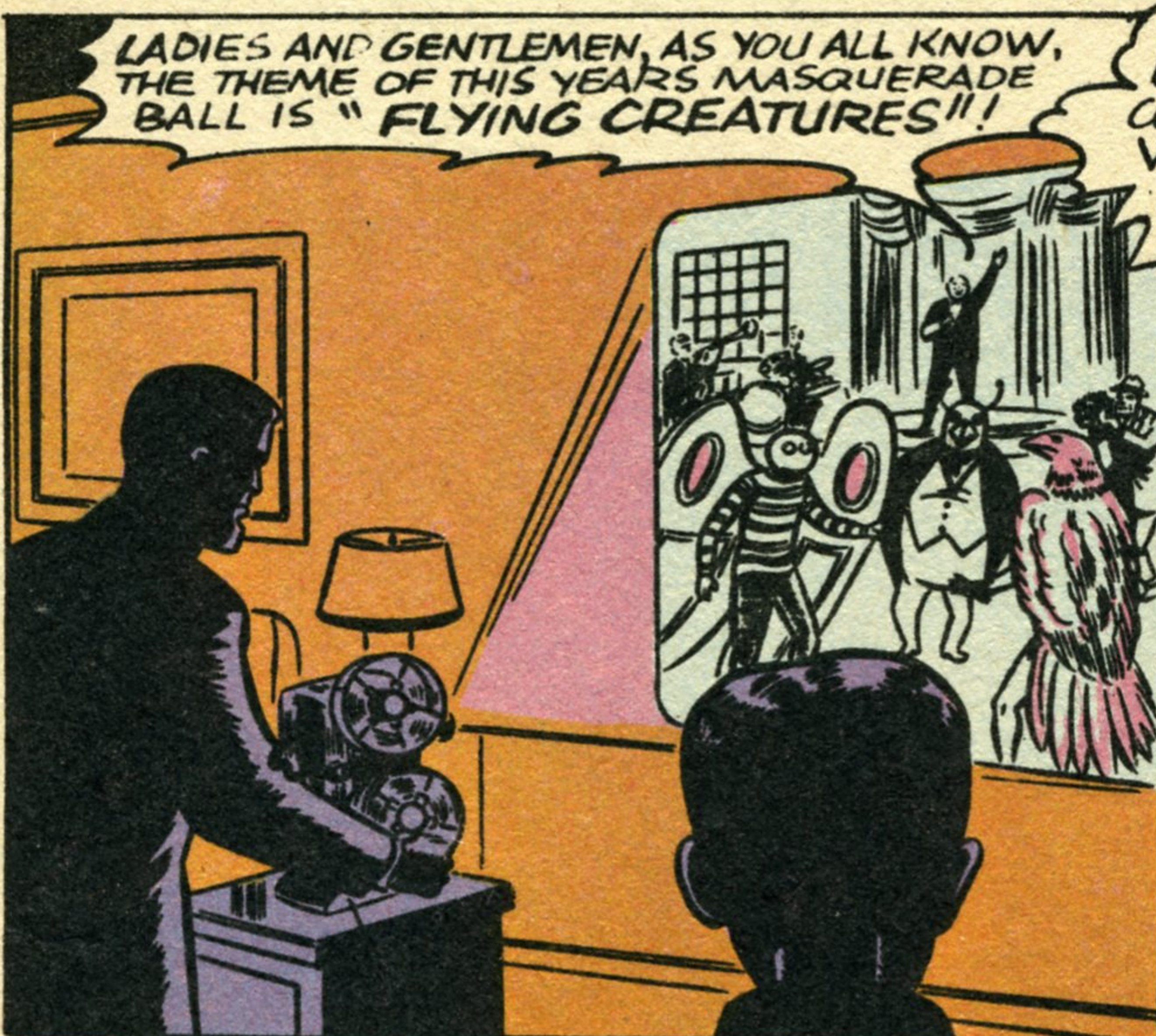


LOOK! HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE IN THE DRAWER! A CAN OF MOVIE FILM AND A DIARY!

LET'S LOOK AT THE FILM FIRST! I'LL SET UP THE PROJECTOR!



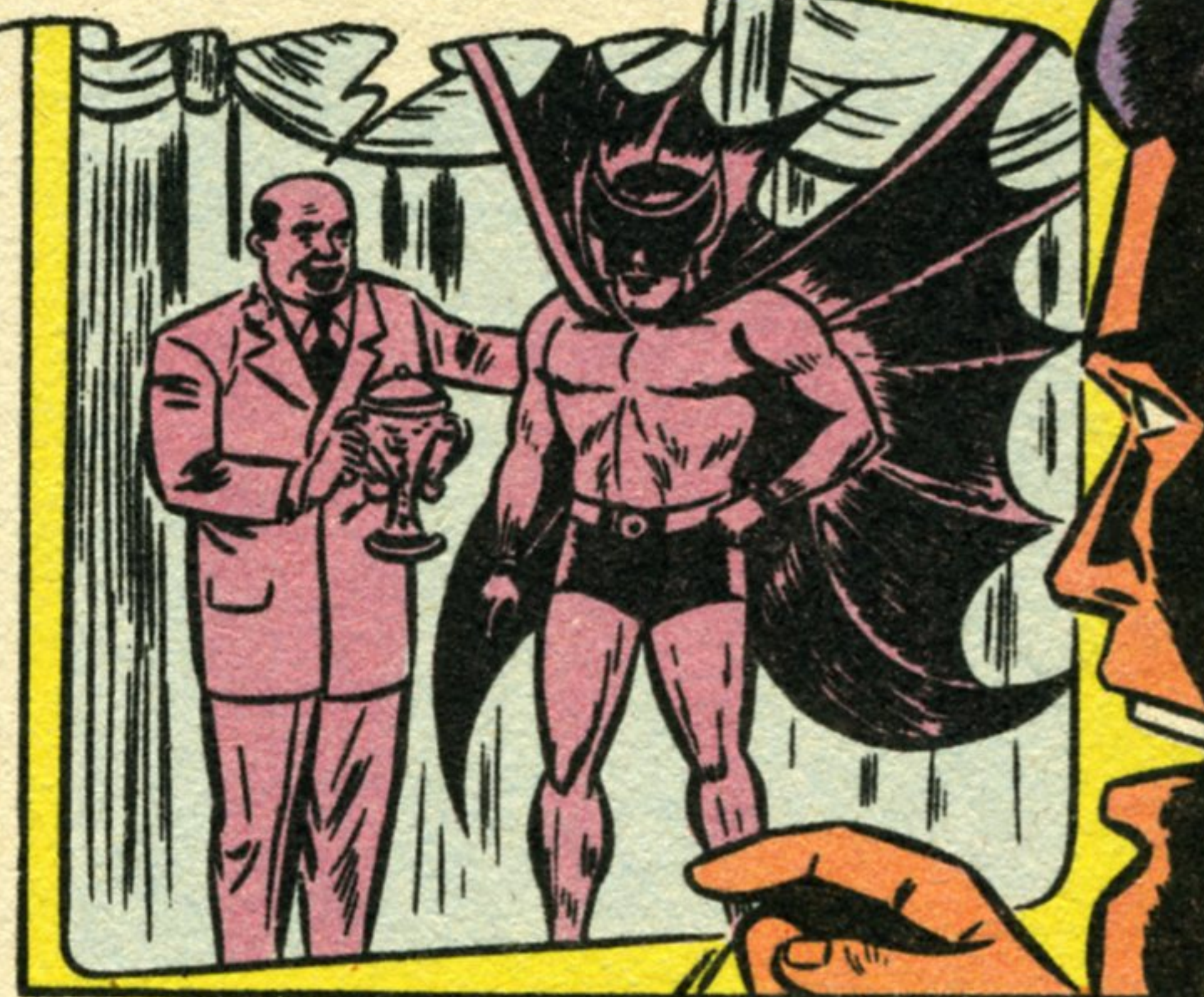
SOON, THE TWO VIEW AN EPISODE FROM THE PAST



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S MASQUERADE BALL IS "FLYING CREATURES"!!

AND OUR FIRST PRIZE FOR THE BEST "FLYING CREATURES" COSTUME GOES TO DR. THOMAS WAYNE FOR HIS BATMAN COSTUME!

MY FATHER!

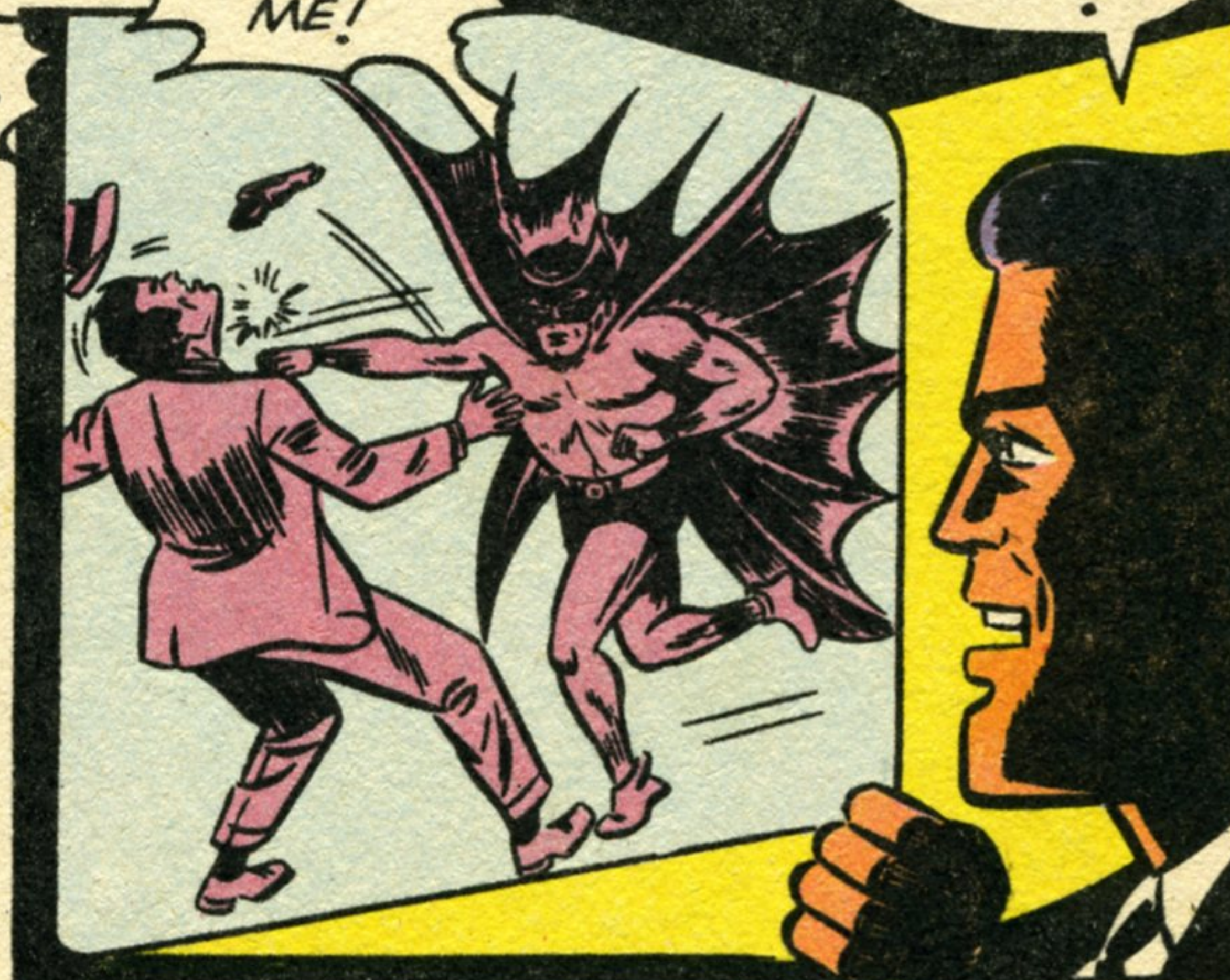


YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME!

ATTABOY, DAD!



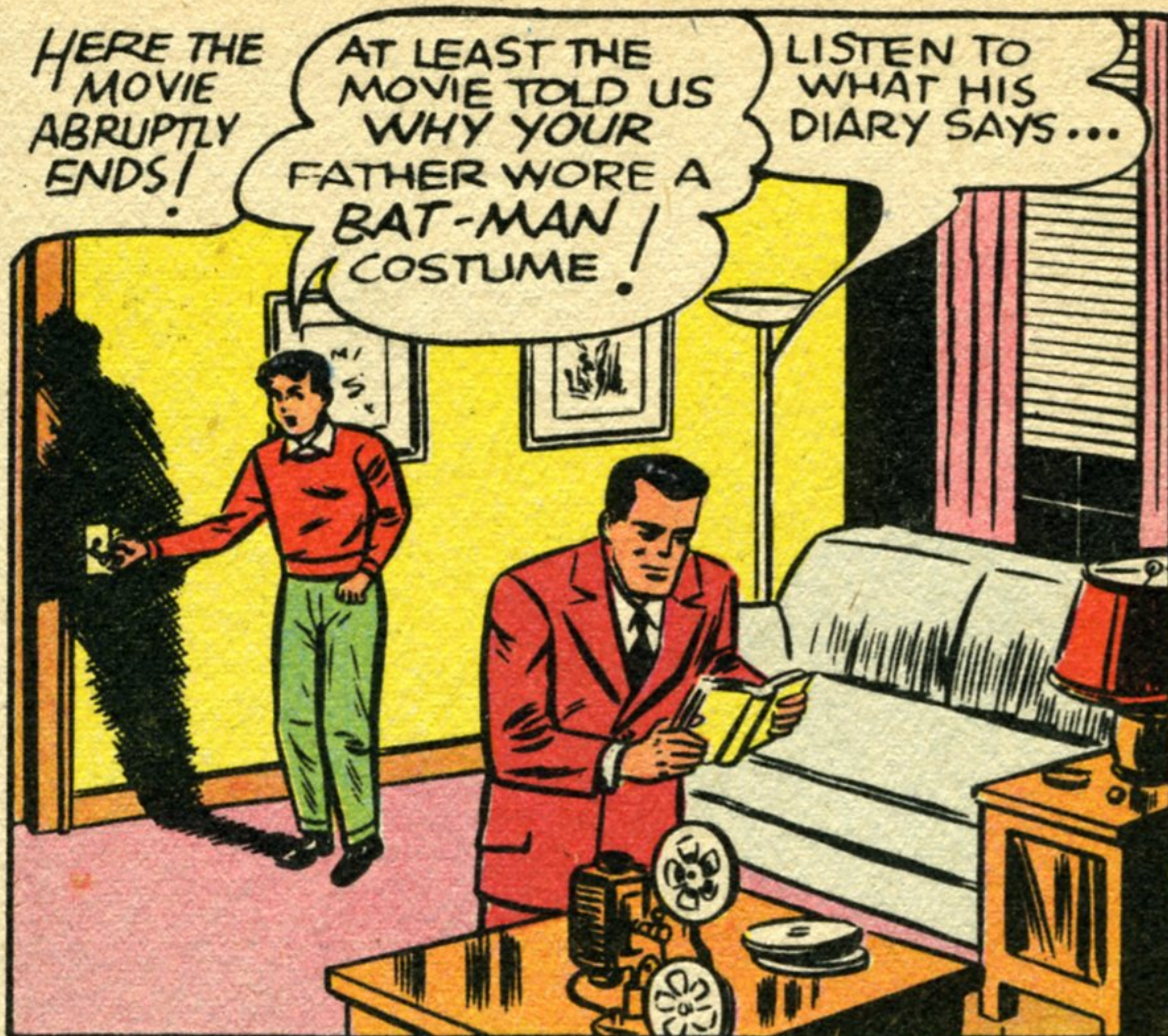
SUDDENLY... WE FIGURED THERE'D BE A DOC IN THIS CROWD! COME ON, DOC... WE NEED YOU! MAKE IT SNAPPY!





BETTER COME ALONG, DOC... OR SOMEBODY SURE IS GONNA GET HURT!

I... I HAVE NO CHOICE... NOW!



HERE THE MOVIE ABRUPTLY ENDS!

AT LEAST THE MOVIE TOLD US WHY YOUR FATHER WORE A BAT-MAN! COSTUME!

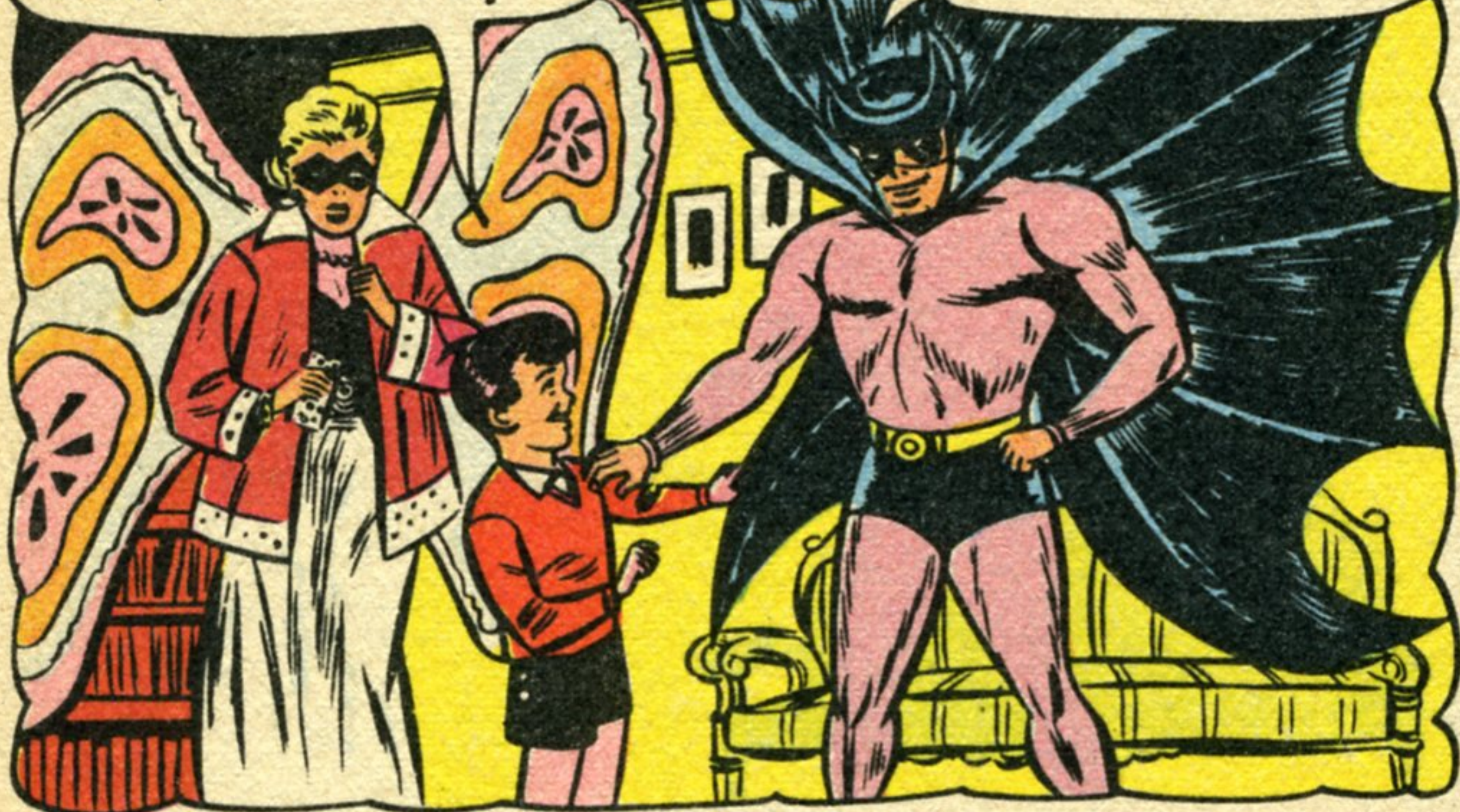
LISTEN TO WHAT HIS DIARY SAYS...

"TONIGHT MARTHA AND I ARE GOING TO THE ANNUAL MASQUERADE BALL! OUR LITTLE BOY SEEMS FASCINATED BY MY COSTUME..."

GEE DADDY, I WISH I COULD WEAR A SUIT LIKE THAT!

I'LL SAVE IT FOR YOU BRUCE... TO WEAR WHEN YOU GROW UP!

DICK, WHEN THAT BAT FLEW INTO MY ROOM, IT MUST HAVE PRODDED MY SUBCONSCIOUS MEMORY OF MY FATHER'S COSTUME! NOW I REALIZE I ADOPTED A BATMAN COSTUME BECAUSE I REMEMBERED MY FATHER WEARING ONE!



READING ON BRUCE LEARNS WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE HOODLUMS TOOK HIS FATHER FROM THE BALL...

"THE GUNMEN TOOK ME TO AN OLD WAREHOUSE WHERE THEIR BOSS WAS IN HIDING..."

YOU'RE LEW MOXON, THE BANK ROBBER THE POLICE ARE AFTER!

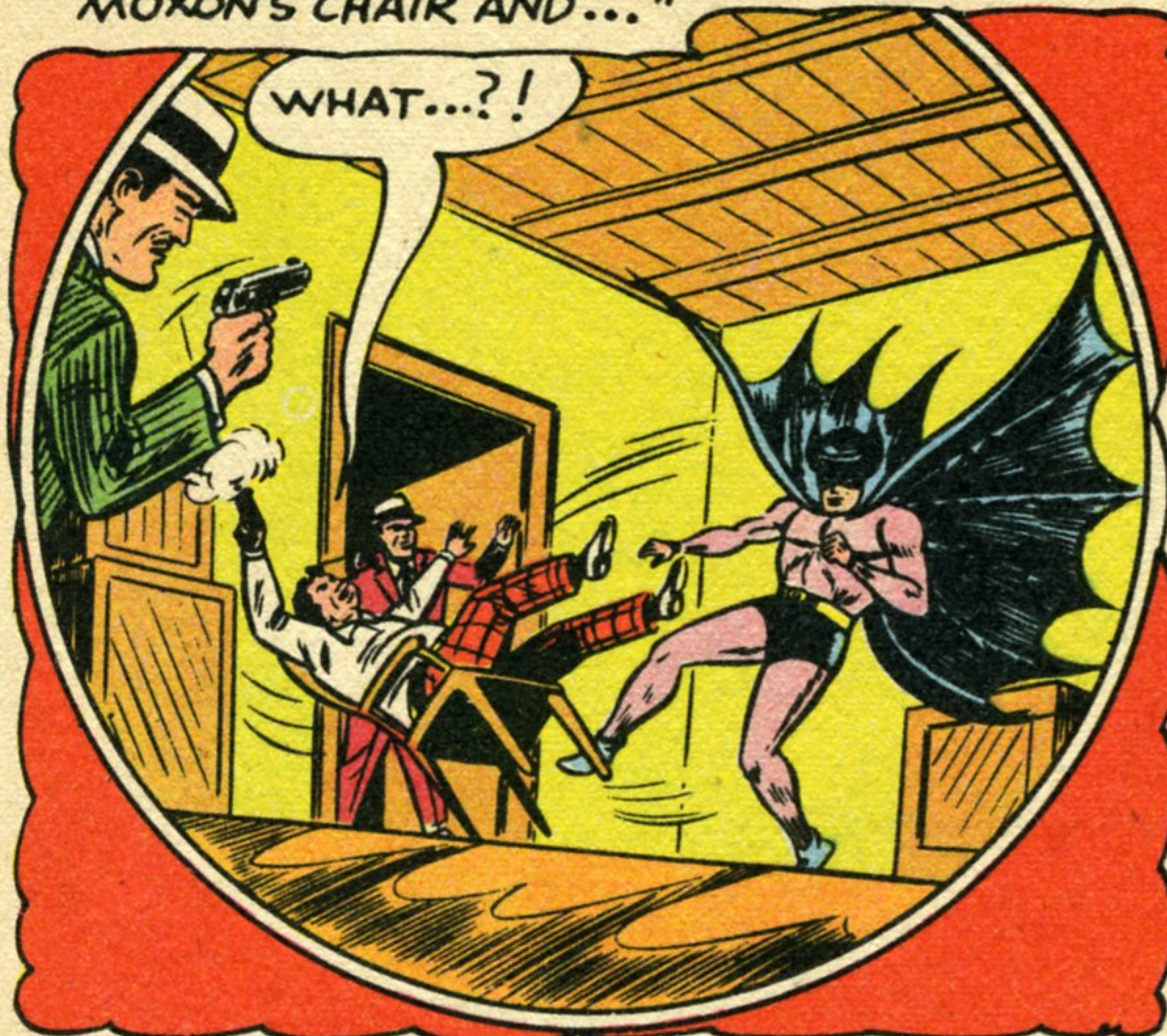
YEAH... ONE OF THEM WINGED ME! I WANT YOU TO REMOVE THE SLUG!

"I KNEW THAT ONCE I REMOVED THE BULLET MOXON WOULD NEVER LET ME LIVE TO REVEAL HIS WHEREABOUTS TO THE POLICE..."

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING... BUT WHAT?



"I SUDDENLY HOOKED ONE FOOT AROUND MOXON'S CHAIR AND..."



"THAT LEFT ONLY TWO HOODLUMS TO DEAL WITH!"



WOW! EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY TRAINING IN FIGHTING CROOKS, YOUR FATHER PULLED A TYPICAL BATMAN STUNT!

MY FATHER WAS QUITE A GUY!



THE DIARY CONTINUES... "AT HIS TRIAL, MOXON WAS SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY..."



TEN YEARS ROLLED BY! I'D INVESTED MY SAVINGS WISELY AND BECAME WEALTHY! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN MOXON UNTIL TODAY...

MOXON FREE!

YEAH... I SERVED MY TEN YEARS IN JAIL... WHERE YOU PUT ME! I SWORE I'D GET YOU, AND I WILL!



BUT I'M TOO SMART TO DO IT MYSELF! THE POLICE WOULD ARREST ME ON SUSPICION FAST! I'LL GET SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT FOR ME!



HERE THE DIARY ENDS!

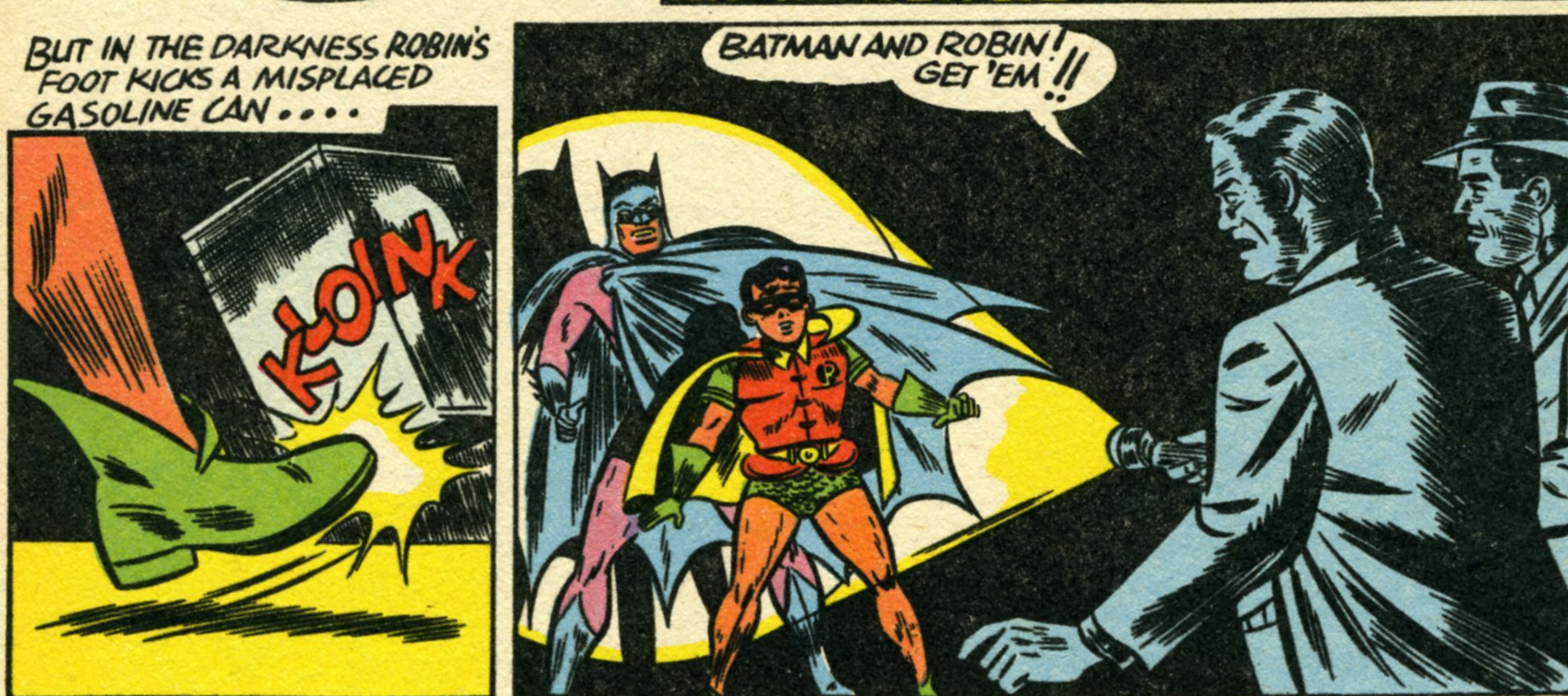
THIS MEANS JOEY CHILL ONLY PRETENDED TO BE A HOLDUP MAN... ACTUALLY HE WAS MOXON'S HIRED KILLER. MOXON MUST HAVE ORDERED CHILL NOT TO KILL ME, TOO SO I'D BE ALIVE TO TESTIFY THAT MY PARENTS WERE KILLED BY A ROBBER.





SOON AFTER, THE SLEEK BAT-PLANE RACES THROUGH THE SKIES.

HOURS LATER, AT THEIR DESTINATION COASTAL CITY, TWO FIGURES MOVE LIKE SHADOWS TOWARDS A BLIMP HANGAR..



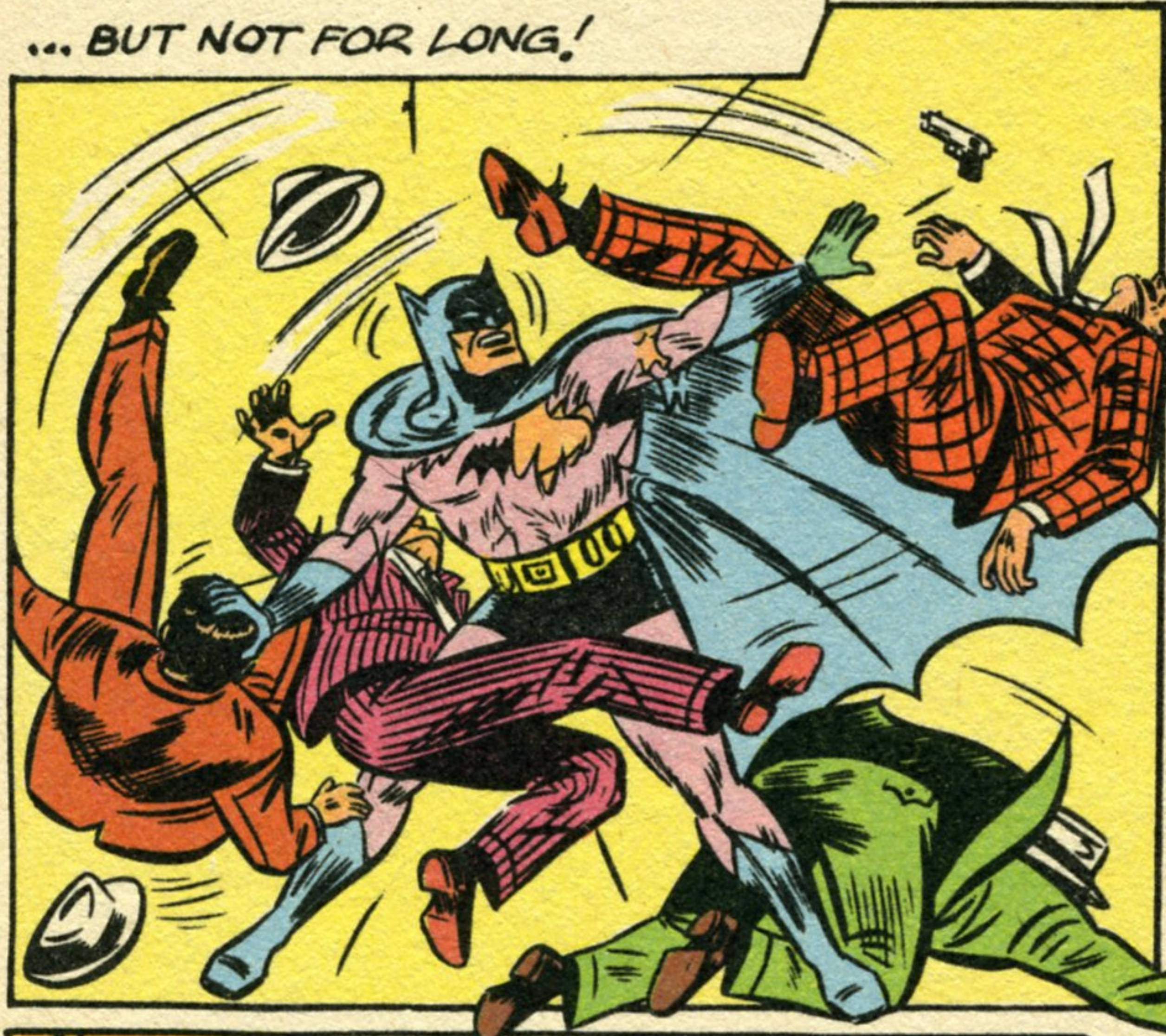
As **ROBIN** DARTS FORWARD, A SWINGING
SANDBAG TREACHEROUSLY FELS HIM!



UNDER THE IMPACT OF 4 THUGS, **BATMAN** IS FLOORED



... BUT NOT FOR LONG!



LATER... **LEW MOXON**,
I'M CHARGING
YOU WITH THE MURDER OF
DR. THOMAS WAYNE!

IS **THAT** WHAT
YOU'RE AFTER
ME FOR?

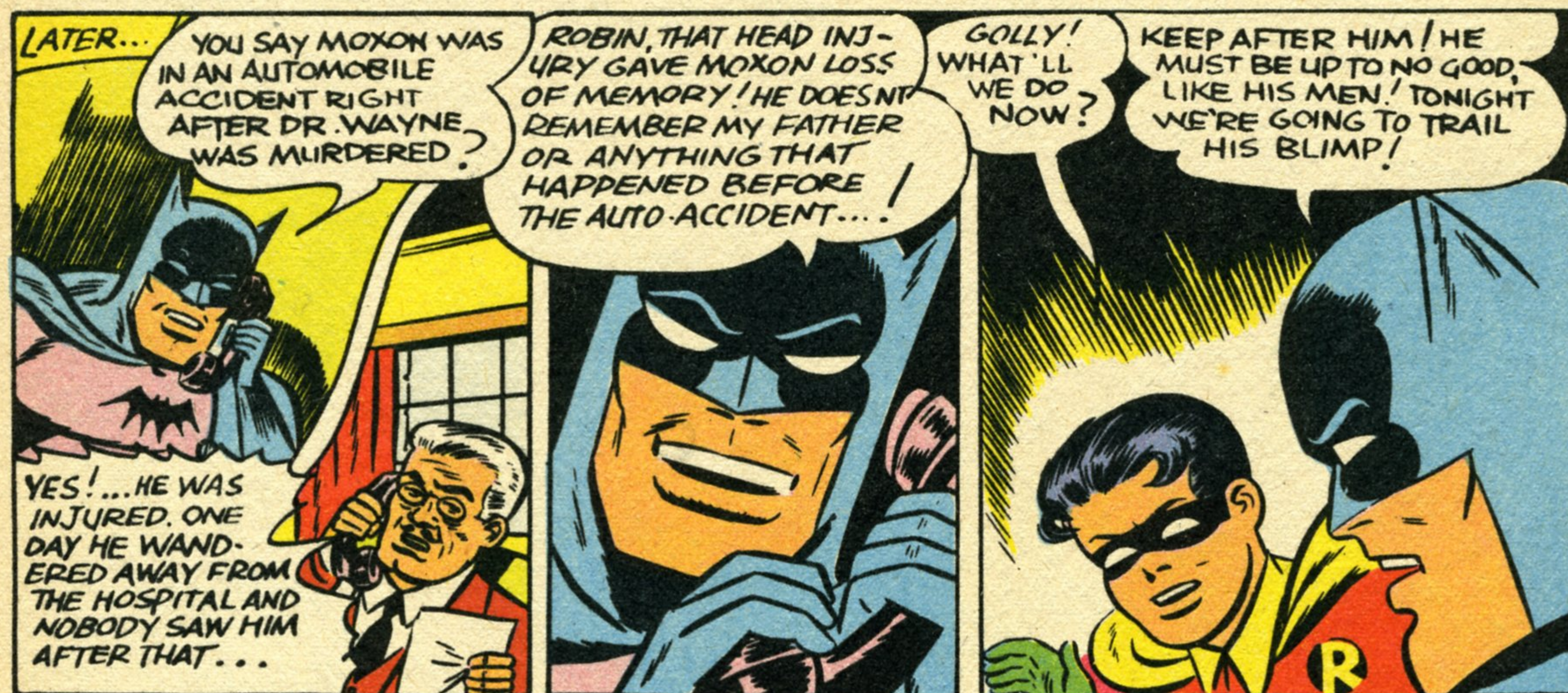
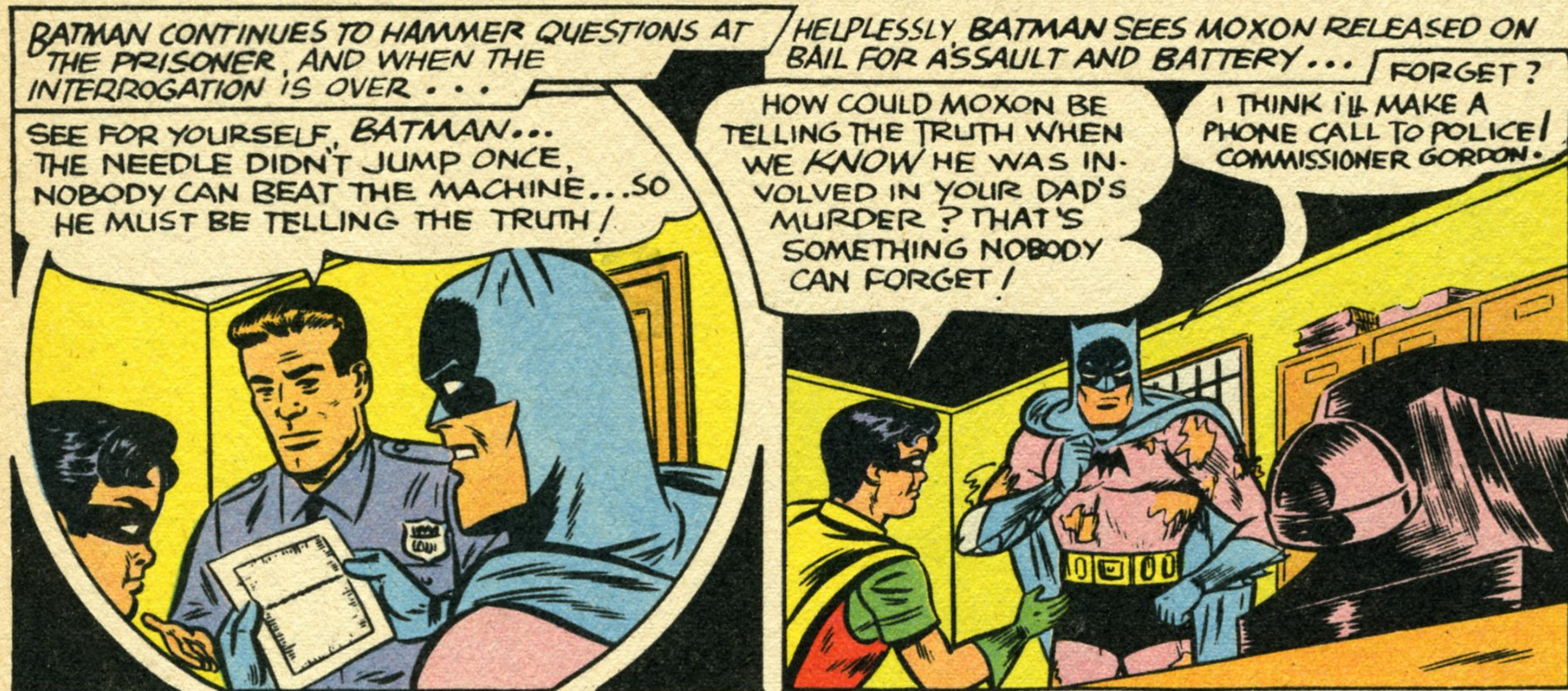


INCREDIBLY, A SMILE OF RELIEF PASSES
OVER THE ACCUSED'S FACE...

I NEVER HEARD OF ANY
DR. WAYNE! I'M EVEN WILLING
TO TAKE THE LIE DETECTOR
TEST TO PROVE IT!

ALL RIGHT,
WE'LL SOON
SEE IF YOU
ARE LYING.





THAT NIGHT, A FLOATING BILLBOARD FLASHES ITS SKY-HIGH ELECTRIC SIGN



NOTHING SUSPICIOUS
HAPPENING SO FAR,
BATMAN!

SUDDENLY, THE ELECTRIC LIGHTS WINK OUT,
LEAVING THE DARK BLIMP ALMOST UNSEEN
AGAINST THE NIGHT SKY



LOOK! A MAN IS BEING
LOWERED TO THAT PENT-
HOUSE! SO THAT'S MOXON'S
ANGLE... USING HIS BLIMP
TO PULL SKY-HIGH
BURGLARY JOBS!

AFTER SETTING THE VERSATILE
BATPLANE ON ROBOT
STABILIZER CONTROLS . . .

ROBIN YOU GO AFTER THE
MAN ON THE ROOF... I'LL
TAKE THE GONDOLA!

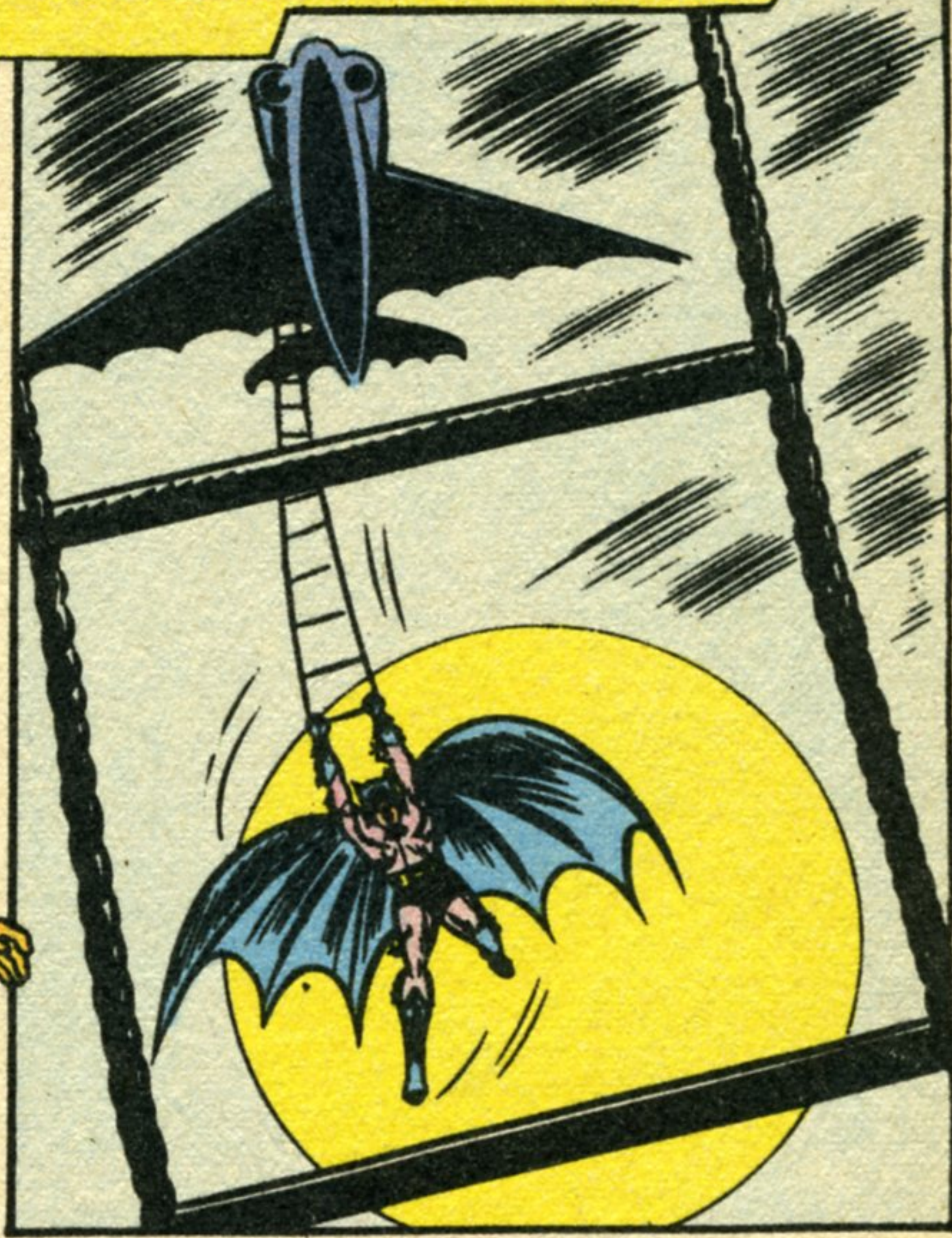


LIKE A HAWK, ROBIN
PLUMMETS DOWN ON HIS
QUARRY!

LOOKS LIKE I'VE
GOT THE DROP ON YOU!

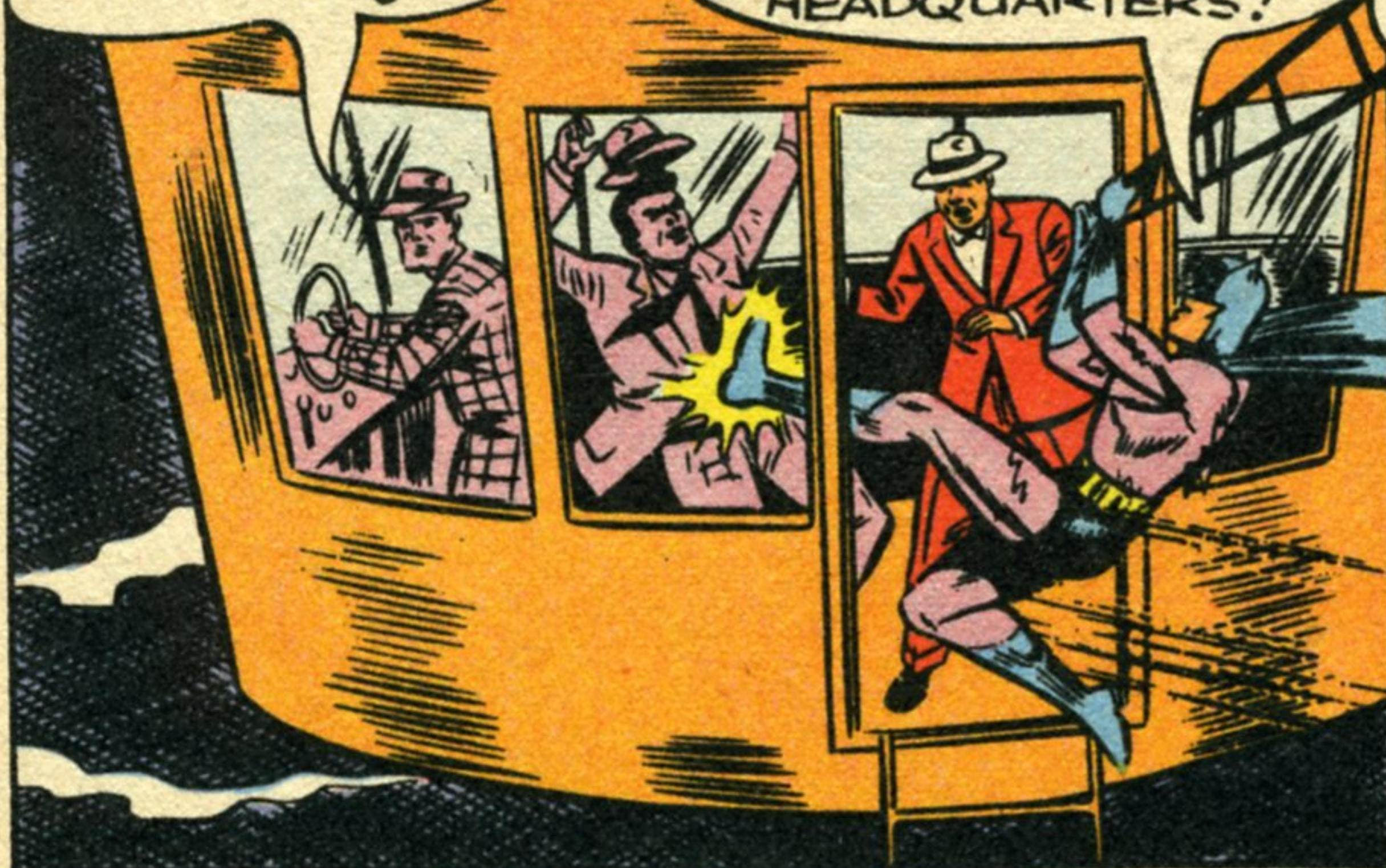


MEANWHILE THE ACRO BATMAN
TRAPEZES THROUGH SPACE..



...AND SWIFTLY SCALING THE BLIMP'S ROPE LADDER,
BURSTS INTO ITS GONDOLA!

BATMAN!



THIS BLIMP'S NEXT
STOP WILL BE POLICE -
HEADQUARTERS!

LATER, AFTER THE PRISONERS ARE JAILED

NOW LET'S PICK UP MOXON!
BUT FIRST YOU'D BETTER
CHANGE TO YOUR SPARE
BATMAN COSTUME...
THAT LAST SCRAP REALLY
SHREDDED THIS ONE.

OH, OH! I FORGOT
TO PACK A
SPARE!





SAY...HOW ABOUT WEARING YOUR FATHER'S COSTUME?

YES...IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE! IT'D BE ALMOST AS IF DAD WERE ARRESTING MOXON!

LATER, ALONE IN HIS OFFICE, MOXON LOOKS UP TO SEE A GRIM FIGURE FRAMED IN THE DOORWAY!



WHO--?!

THAT COSTUME...I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE... LONG AGO! I'M BEGINNING TO REMEMBER... A DOCTOR... DOC WAYNE - HE WORE THAT! COSTUME!



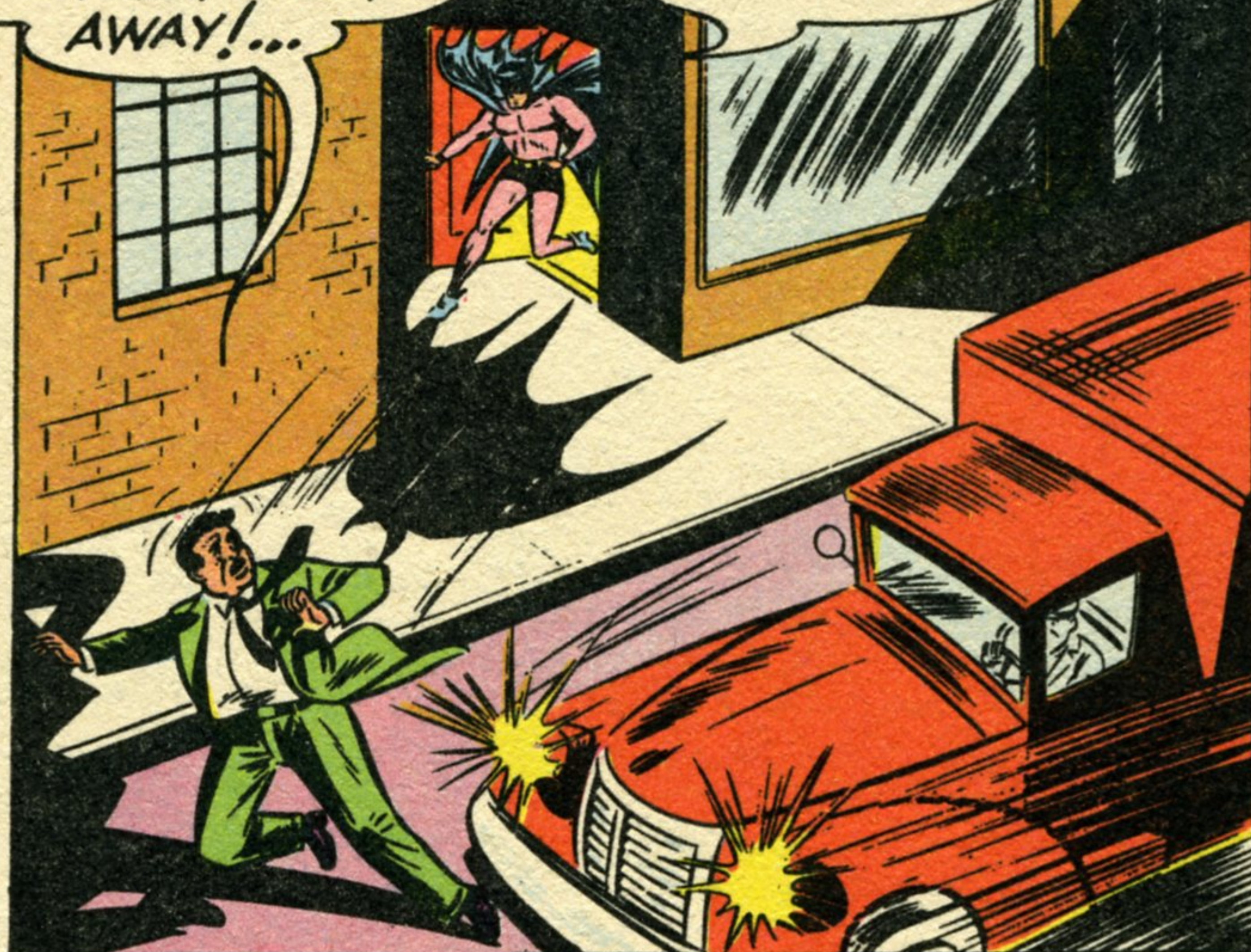
GREAT, SCOTT! I DIDN'T REALIZE THE SHOCK OF SEEING THIS COSTUME WOULD JAR MOXON'S MEMORY!

GO AWAY! YOU'RE DEAD! I HAD JOEY CHILL KILL YOU... LEAVE ME ALONE!

FEAR-RIDDEN, MOXON WRENCHES OPEN A SIDE-DOOR AND RUSHES OUT INTO THE NIGHT...

HE'S COME BACK TO HAUNT ME! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY... GET AWAY!...

MOXON! LOOK OUT! THAT TRUCK!



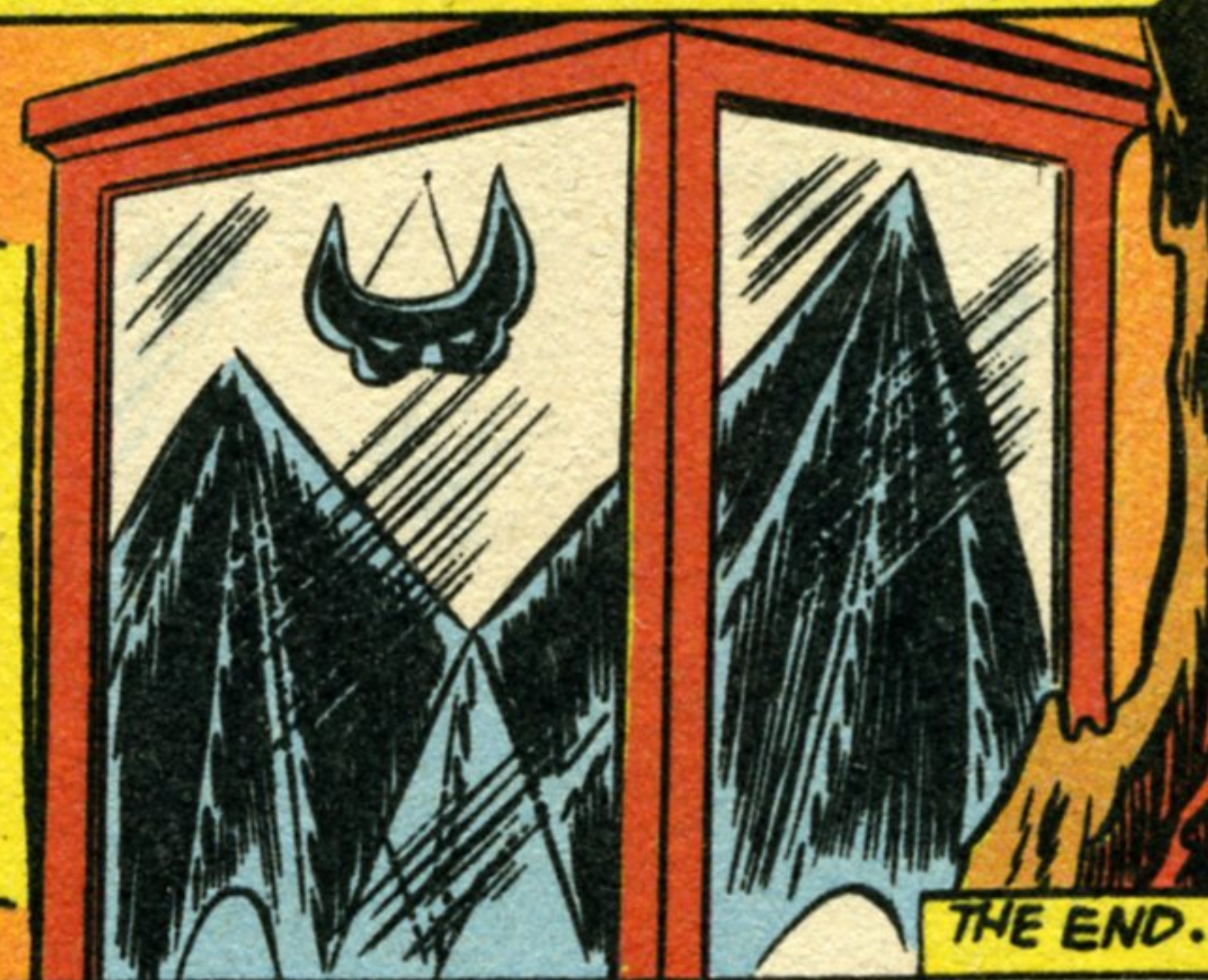
A SCREECH OF BRAKES...A CRY...AND MOXON'S CAREER OF VIOLENCE ENDS IN VIOLENCE.....



I WANTED TO TAKE HIM ALIVE... TO STAND TRIAL FOR HIS CRIMES... BUT HIS OWN GUILT CONVICTED HIM!

SOON AFTER, A COSTUME OCCUPIES AN HONORED SPACE IN THE BAT-CAVE'S TROPHY ROOM!

FROM THE WAYNE MURDER CASE CASE FINALLY SOLVED BY THIS COSTUME ONCE WORN BY THE FIRST BAT-MAN.



THE END.

BATMAN & ROBIN

MANY A HARDENED CRIMINAL HAS SOUGHT THE TRUE IDENTITY OF BATMAN, BUT IT WAS A YOUNG FRECKLE FACED BOY WHO CAME CLOSER THAN ALL THE SCHEMERS OF THE UNDERWORLD TO EXPOSING BRUCE WAYNE IN HIS ROLE OF THE MASKED CRIME-FIGHTER, INDEED, BATMAN FINDS HIMSELF WITH A HANDFUL OF TEEN-AGE TROUBLE, WHEN HE TAKES ON...

DO The Second Boy Wonder!

WHY - YOU'RE NOT ROBIN! WHO ARE YOU? ...AND WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ROBIN?

HA! HA! SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS MY IDENTITY, BATMAN. THE WAY I GUESSED YOURS... BRUCE WAYNE!

BOB KANE

LATE ONE NIGHT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN RETURN FROM ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FORAY AGAINST THE UNDERWORLD...

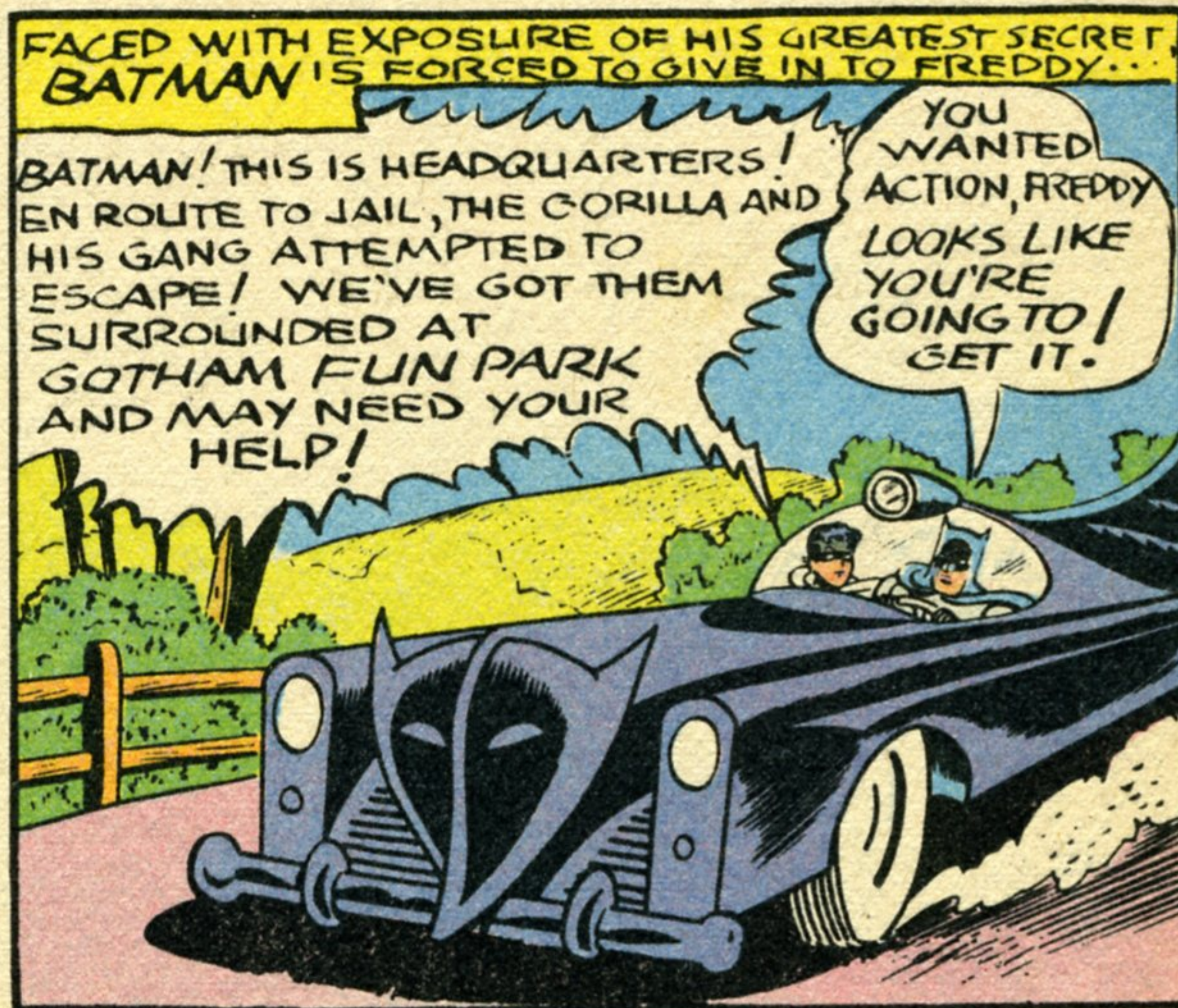
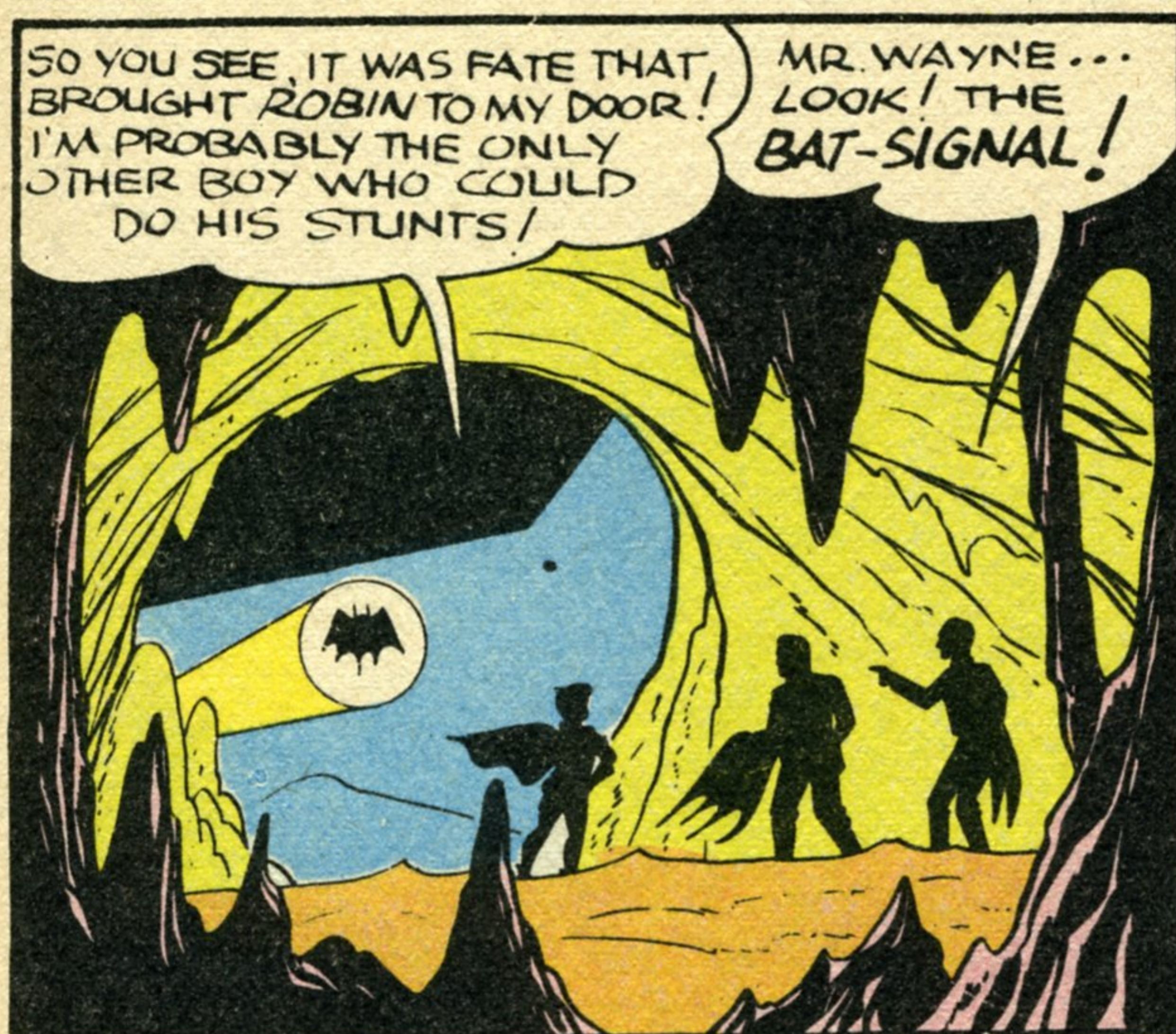
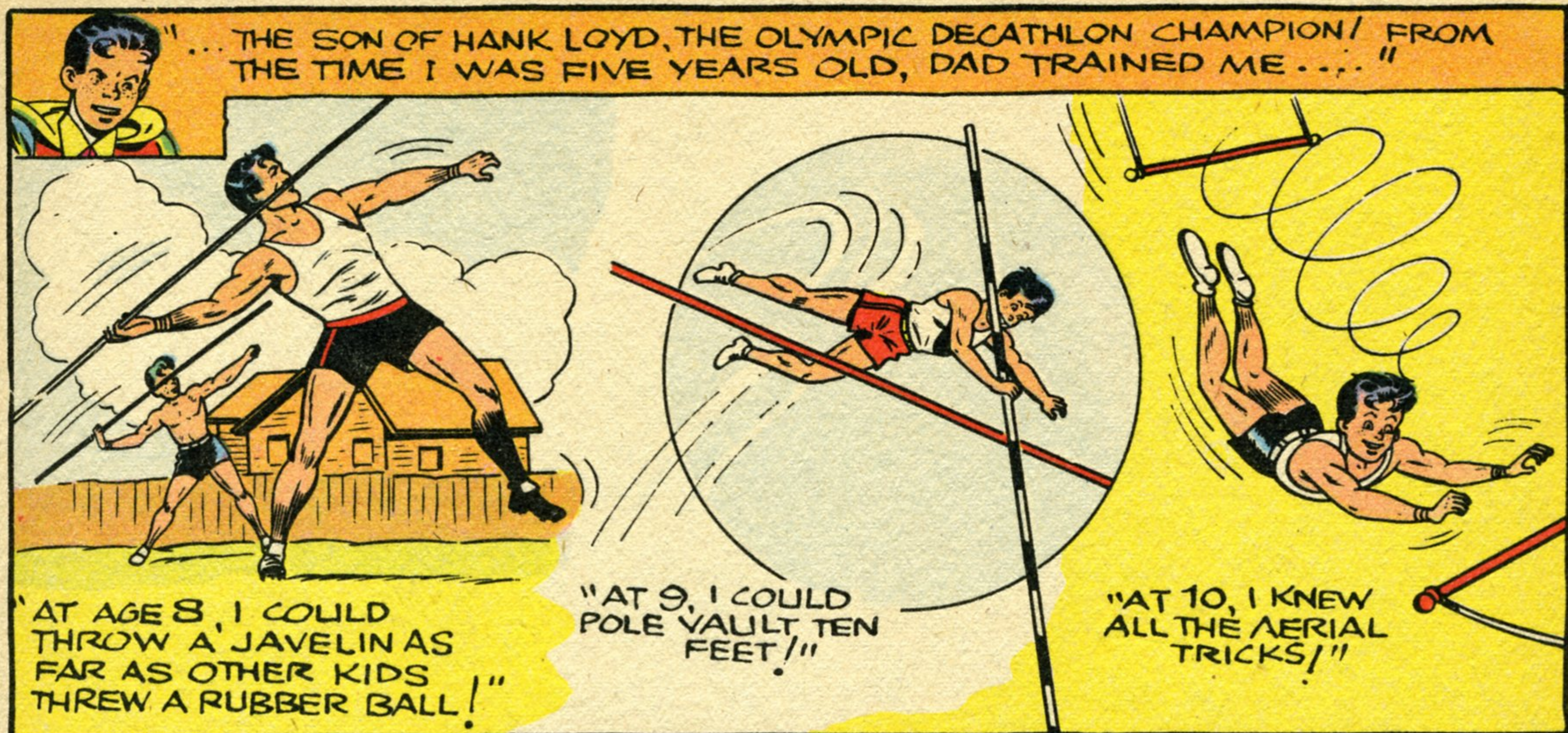
NICE GOING ROBIN... IF YOU HADN'T ARRIVED IN TIME TO GRAB GORILLA HARDY FROM THE REAR, HE WOULD'VE SHOT ME!

I'D HAVE SHOWN UP SOONER AS WE PLANNED, BATMAN, BUT GORILLAS MEN HAD ME TRUSSED UP!

HOW DID YOU GET THE ROPES OFF?

WHEN THEY TIED ME UP, I TENSED MY MUSCLES, EXPANDING MY WRISTS! LATER, WHEN I RELAXED, THE ROPES SLIPPED RIGHT OFF!

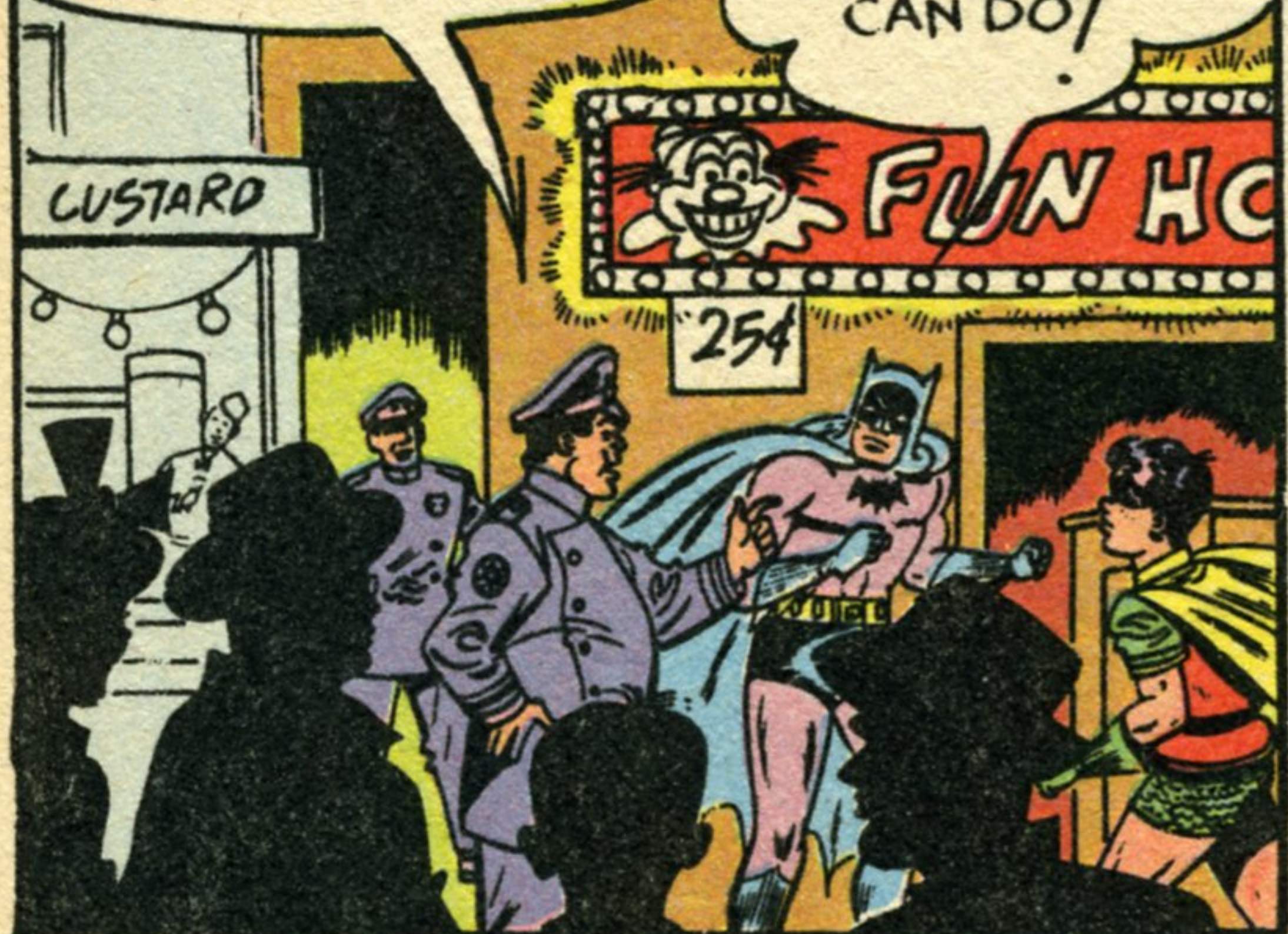




UPON REACHING THE COLORFUL AMUSEMENT PARK

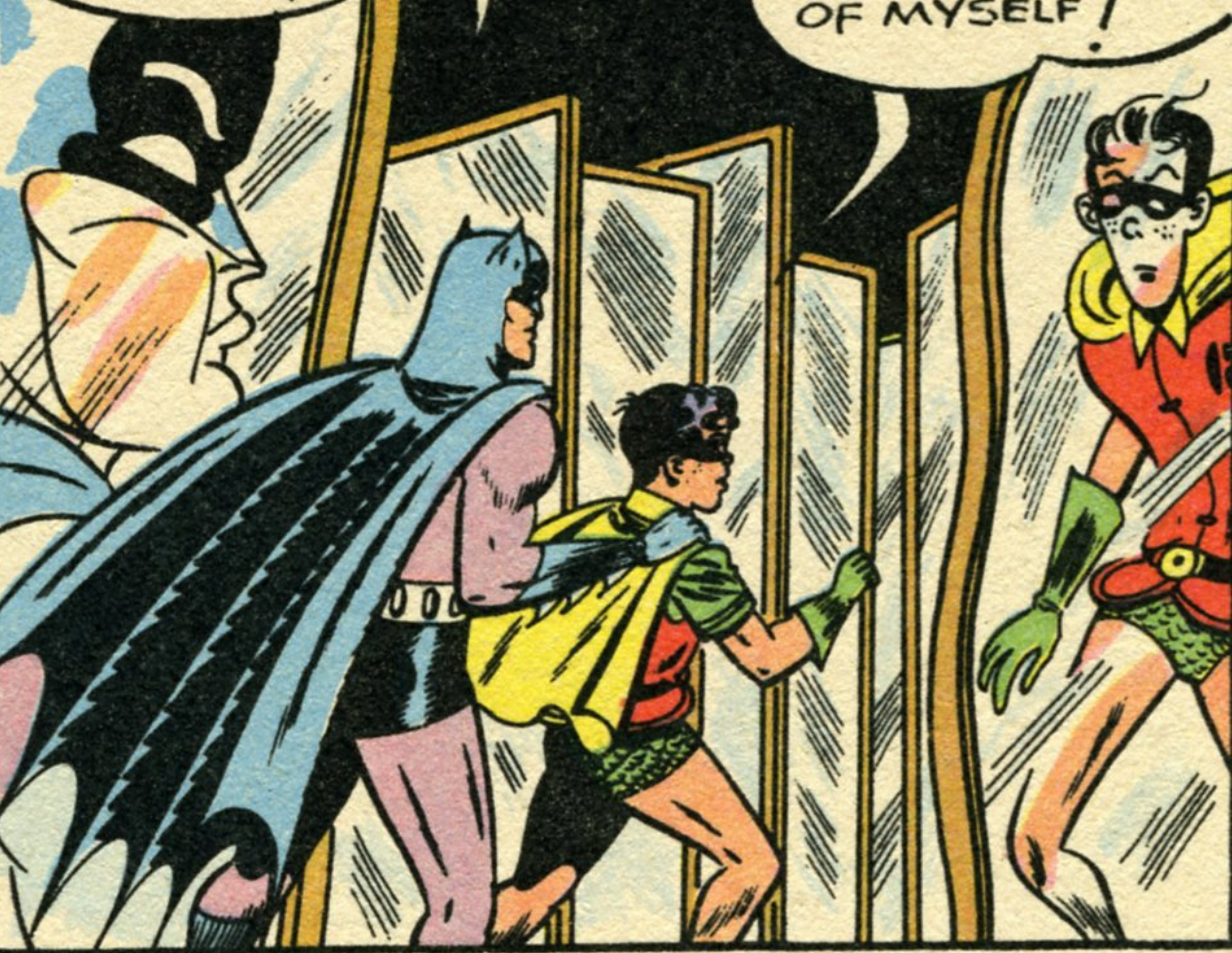
UNABLE TO OPEN FIRE,
THE POLICE HAVE
GORILLA AND TWO OF HIS
MEN TRAPPED IN THE
HOUSE OF MIRRORS!

ALL RIGHT,
CAPTAIN... FRED
I MEAN, ROBIN
AND I WILL SEE
WHAT WE
CAN DO!



NOW DON'T TAKE RISKS,
FREDDY... JUST FOLLOW
MY LEAD!

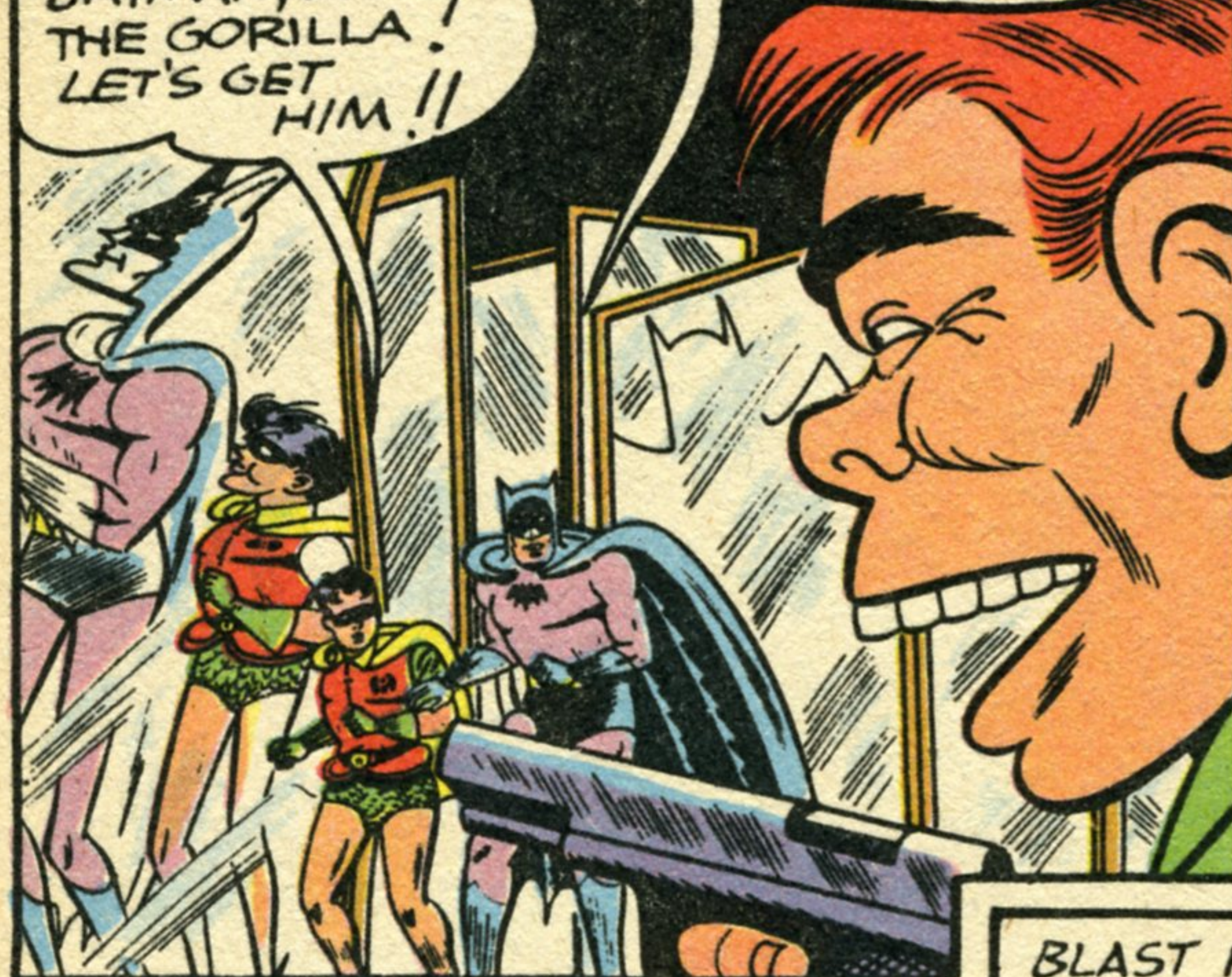
DON'T WORRY ABOUT
ME BATMAN.... I
CAN TAKE CARE
OF MYSELF!



JUST THEN...

BATMAN, LOOK!
THE GORILLA!
LET'S GET
HIM!!

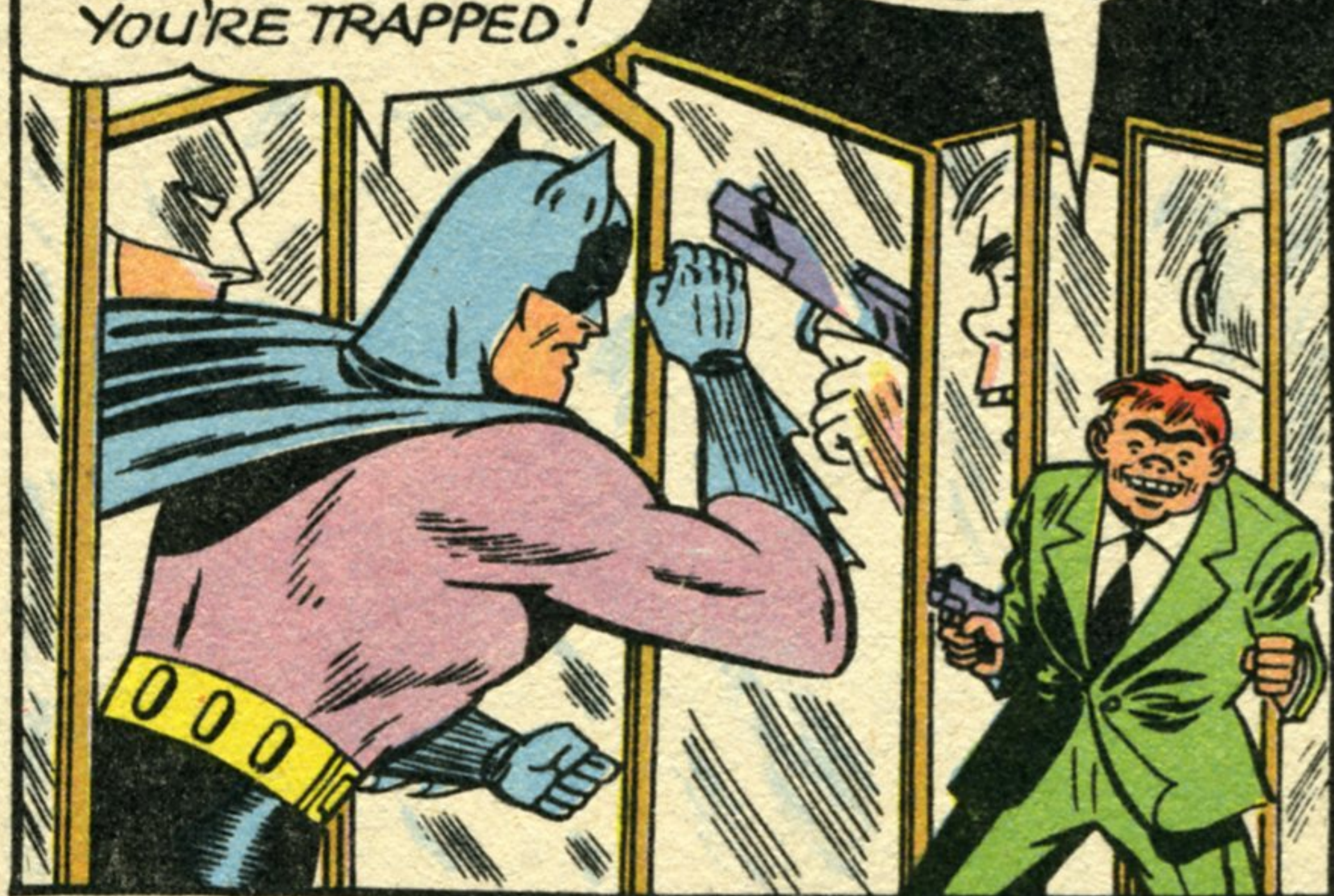
WAIT... THOSE MIR-
RORS GIVE ME AN
IDEA...



A MOMENT LATER...

YOU MIGHT AS
WELL GIVE UP
GORILLA....
YOU'RE TRAPPED!

HAW! YOU MUST BE
DIM BATMAN,
WALKIN' RIGHT
INTO MY
GUN!

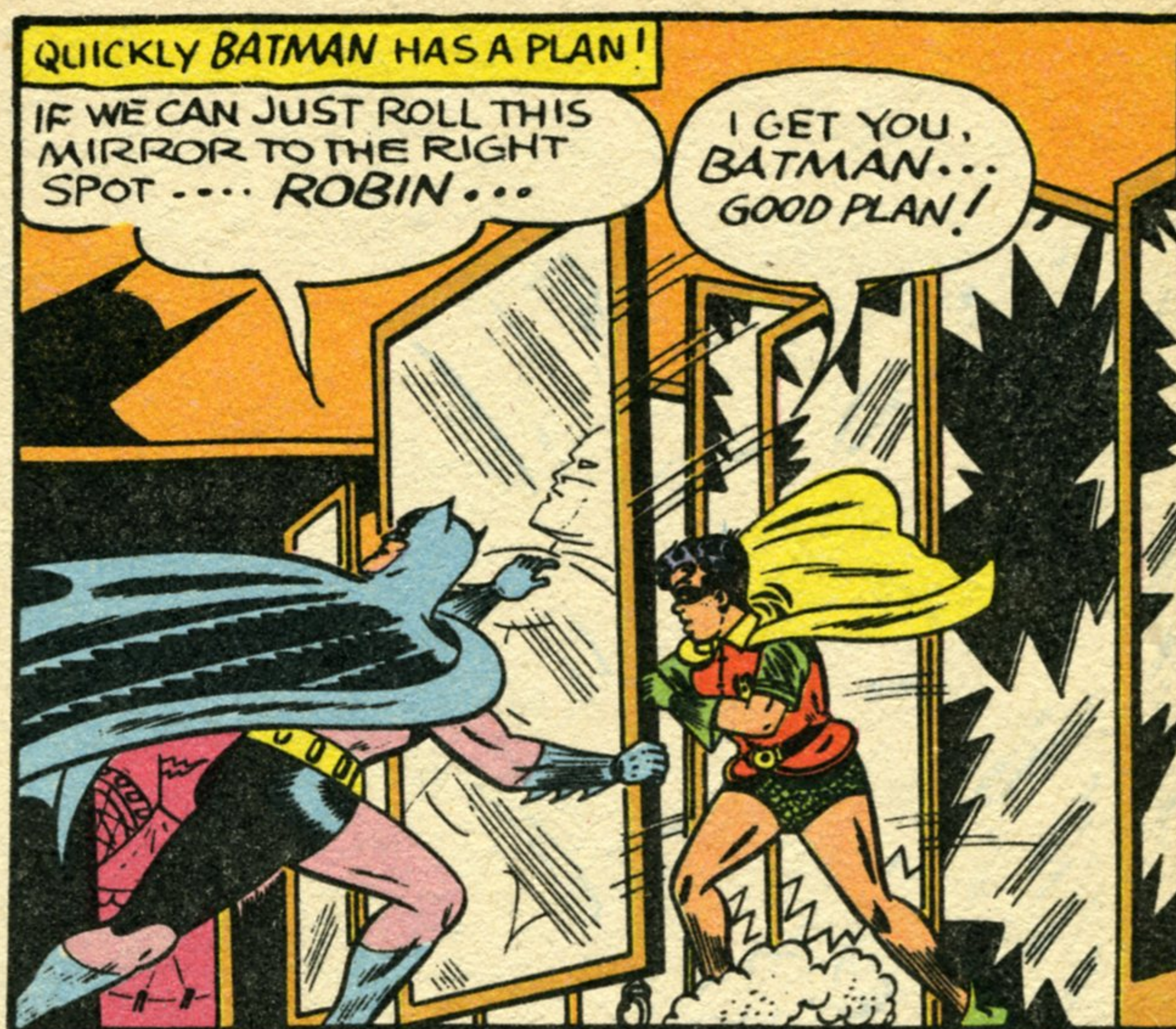


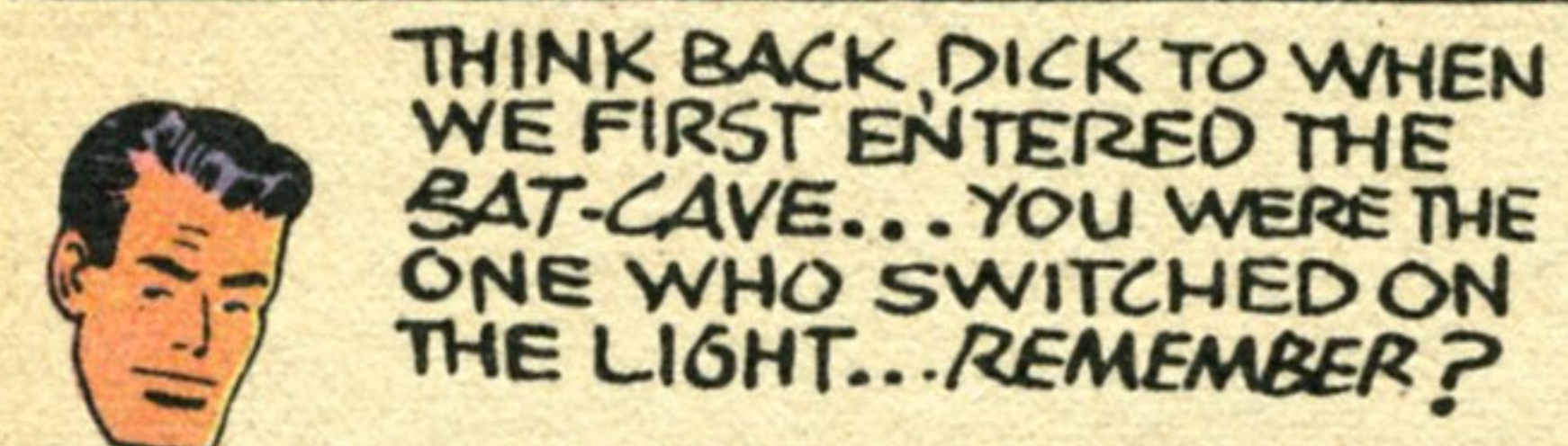
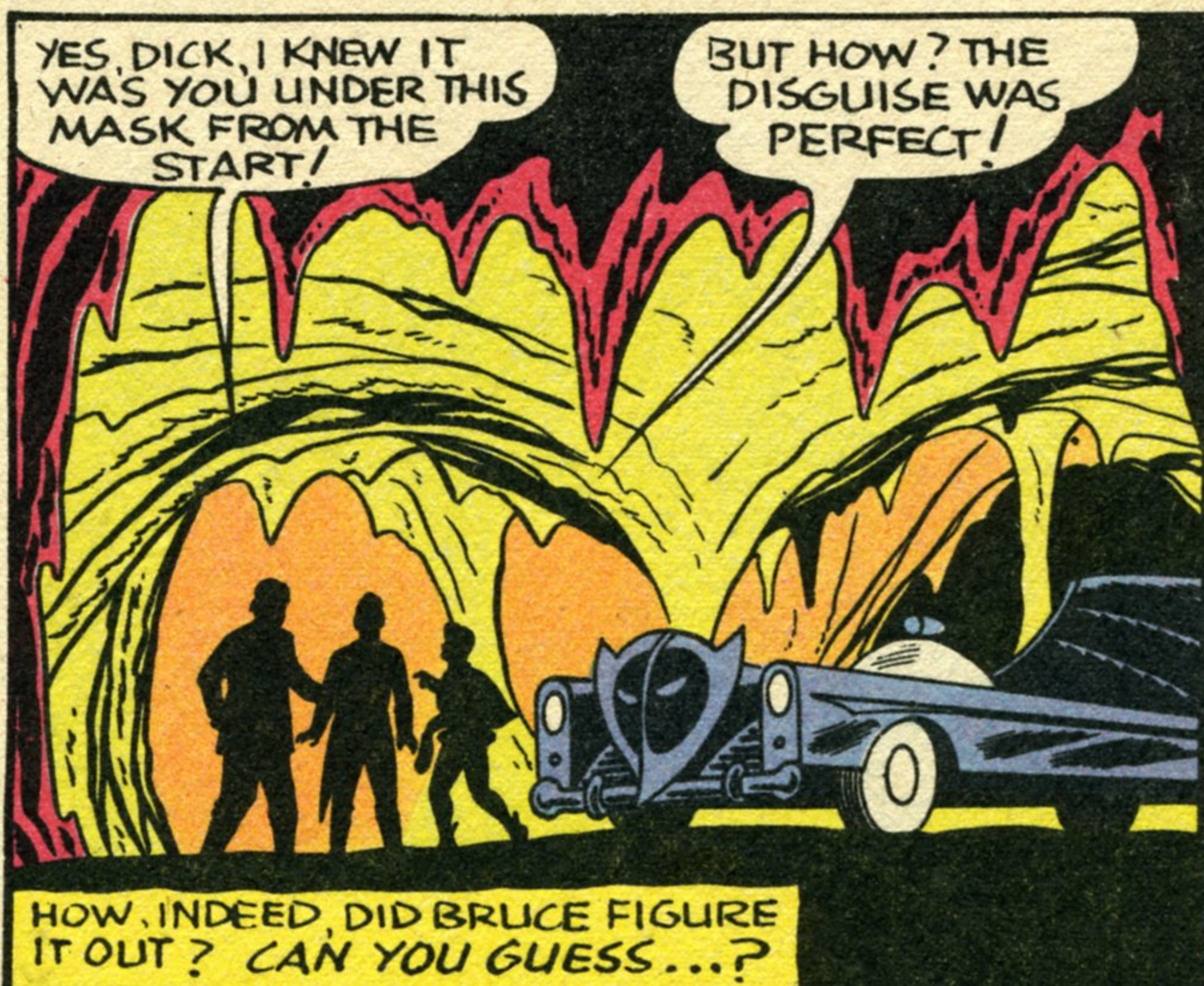
THIS IS YOUR FIN-
ISH... HUH? IT WAS
JUST A MIRROR!



BLAST IT!
WHICH ONE OF
YOU IS REAL?







BATMAN

ROBIN

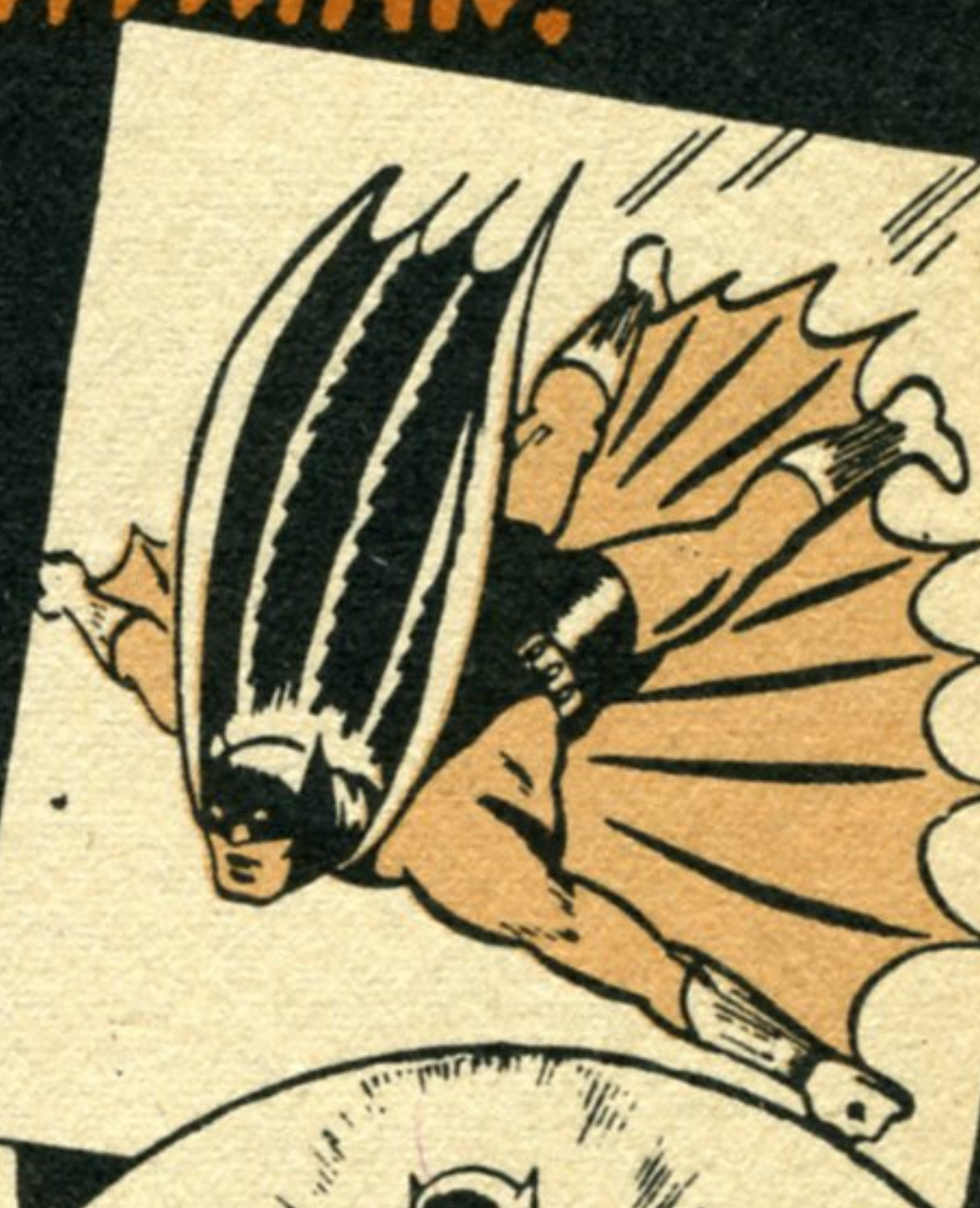
WHAT IS IT THAT TERRORIZES CROOKS? WHAT DO THEY DREAD MOST? YES, IT IS THE FLASHING FIGURE OF BATMAN, CLAD IN THE SHADOWY COLORS OF BLUE AND GRAY. AND ON OCCASION, THE FAMED FIGHTER HAS DONNED OTHER UNIFORMS FOR SPECIFIC JOBS. BUT NOW-- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR CRIME-FIGHTING CAREERS-- THE DARING DUO OF BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST REVEAL A TOP-SECRET COSTUME, NEVER BEFORE SEEN AS THEY BATTLE A NEW ENEMY WHO FORCES THEM TO USE ALMOST ALL OF--

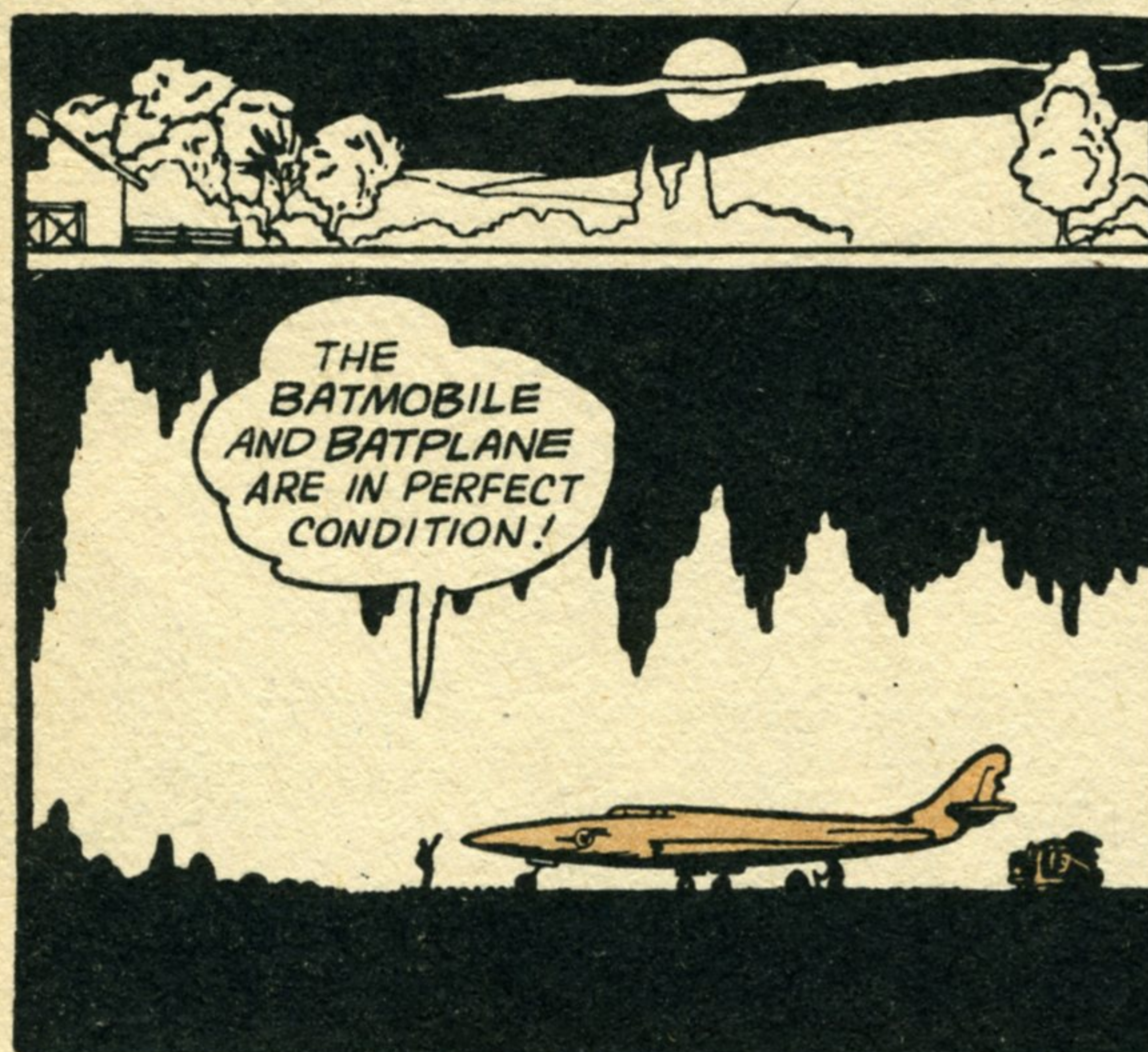
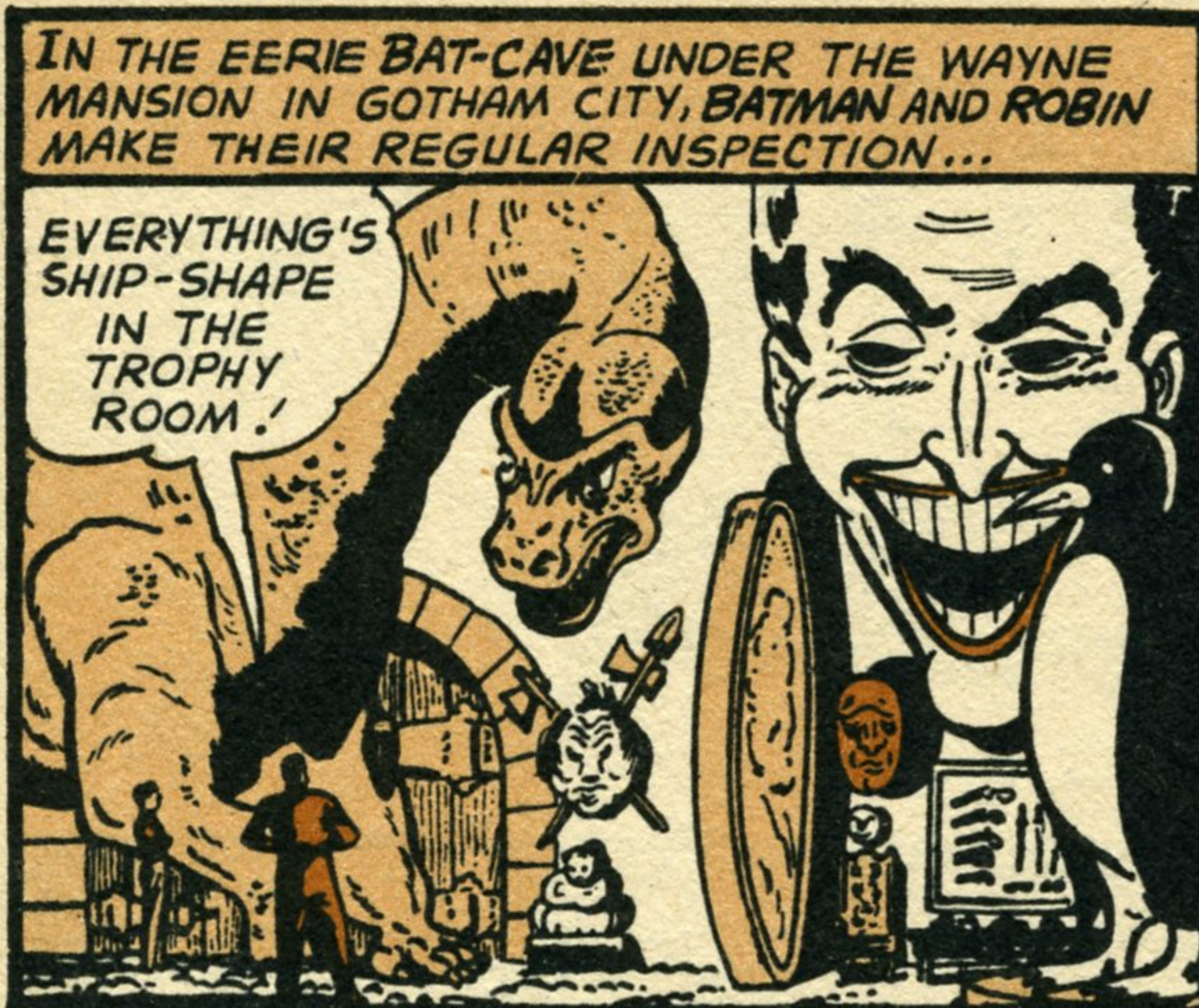
The STRANGE COSTUMES

of **BATMAN!**



BOB KANE





THE INSPECTION AWAKENS MORE MEMORIES OF THE PAST--THE PAST OF THE TWO GREATEST CRIME-FIGHTERS WHO EVER LIVED!

THIS SUPER-THIN CELLOPHANE COSTUME I KEPT CRUMPLED UP AND HIDDEN IN MY BOOT HEEL WHEN I ONCE ENTERED PRISON AS BRUCE WAYNE--SO I COULD BECOME BATMAN IN PRISON!

AND COULD BE DESTROYED WITH A MATCH SO IT WOULDN'T BE FOUND ON YOU AND GIVE AWAY YOUR IDENTITY!



THIS LUMINOUS BAT-COSTUME WHICH GLOWS IN THE DARK SCARED A SUPERSTITIOUS CROOK INTO SUBMISSION!

AND REMEMBER THIS BAT-SPACE SUIT I WORE WHEN WE WERE PROJECTED INTO THE FUTURE?



"IT SAVED MY LIFE WHEN THOSE SPACE-PIRATES DESTROYED A SHIP AND I WAS CAST ADrift!"



AND SO THEY EXAMINE THE VARIOUS BAT-COSTUMES, WHICH ARE ALIKE IN MANY RESPECTS BUT WHICH HAVE DIFFERENT CAPABILITIES...



THIS AIR-COSTUME IS OKAY!

SO IS THIS SUB-COSTUME!



THEN THE LAST AND STRANGEST OF ALL!



WE'VE NEVER HAD TO USE THIS ONE--AND I HOPE WE NEVER WILL!

RIGHT! IT'S TO BE USED ONLY IN THE WORST EMERGENCY--AND THEN, WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO USE!

WHAT IS THE TERRIBLE SECRET OF THIS STRANGEST OF ALL COSTUMES? WHY CAN IT ONLY BE USED IN DIREST NEED? LOOK CLOSELY--IT MAY RESEMBLE BATMAN'S OTHER BATTLE RAIMENT, BUT THE CLUE TO ITS FANTASTIC SECRET IS IN PLAIN SIGHT!

?

FOR, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, A SINISTER NEW CORPORATION OF CRIME IS BEING FORMED HEADED BY DOCTOR ROBERT DARCY.

WHY SHOULD I WASTE MY SCIENTIFIC GENIUS IN A CHEAP LABORATORY JOB, WHEN IT CAN REAP MILLIONS FOR US?

YOU CAN STYMIE THE POLICE, DOC, BUT NOT BATMAN!



THAT HOODED DETECTIVE! HE'LL BE HELPLESS AGAINST MY SCIENTIFIC SKILL!

YEAH?



AND SHORTLY AFTER, THE GANG'S FIRST CRIME STRIKES GOTHAM CITY WITH THE FEROCITY OF A THUNDER-BOLT!

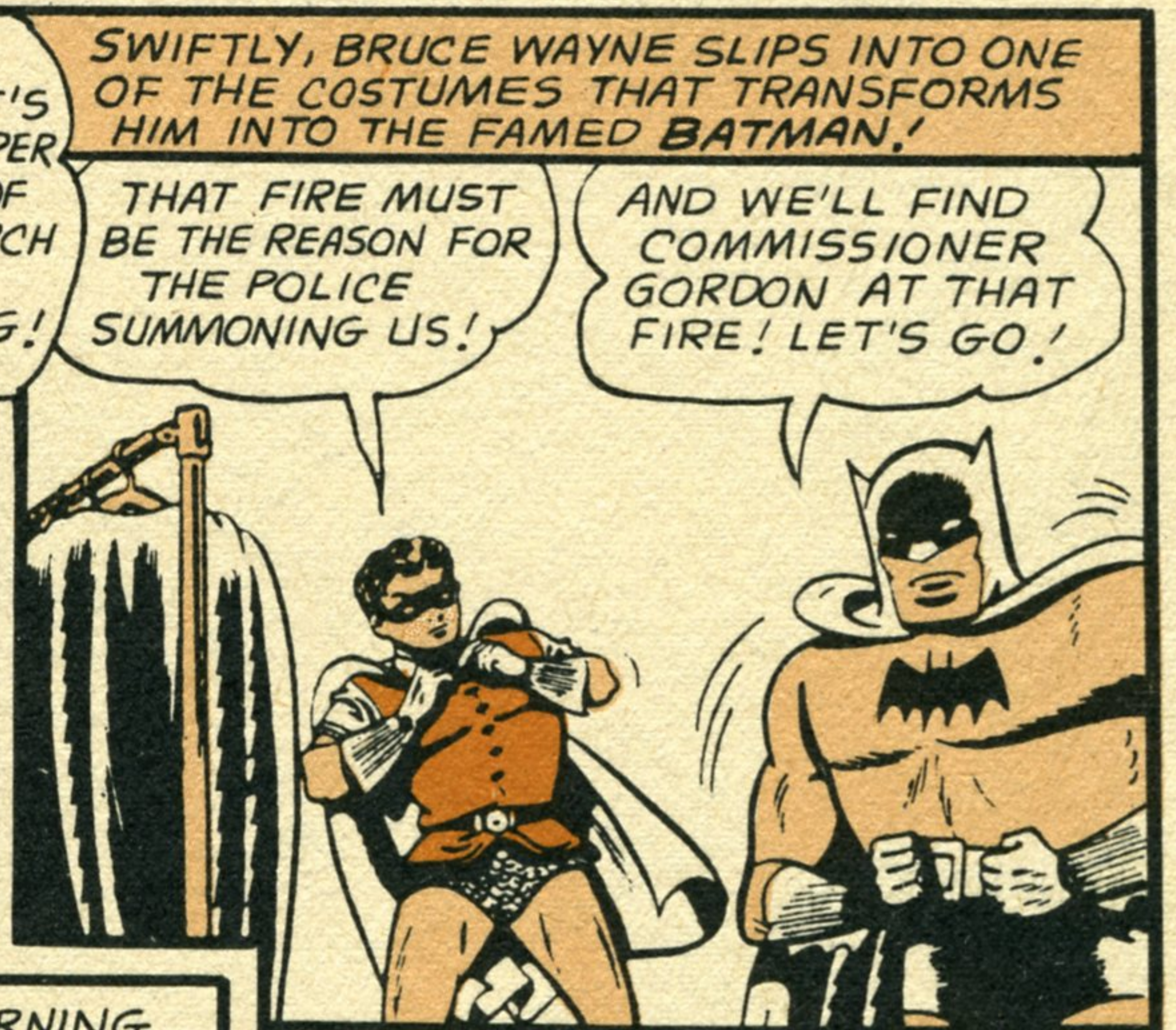
LOOK, BRUCE! THE BAT-SIGNAL CALLING US!

THAT FIRE--IT'S ON THE UPPER FLOORS OF THE MONARCH STATE BUILDING!

SWIFTLY, BRUCE WAYNE SLIPS INTO ONE OF THE COSTUMES THAT TRANSFORMS HIM INTO THE FAMED BATMAN!

THAT FIRE MUST BE THE REASON FOR THE POLICE SUMMONING US!

AND WE'LL FIND COMMISSIONER GORDON AT THAT FIRE! LET'S GO!



MOMENTS LATER, THE BATMOBILE RACES TO THE BURNING MENACE ...

BATMAN, WE THINK THE FIRE WAS CAUSED BY PACKAGES DELIVERED TO THE 50TH FLOOR, THEN BURST INTO FLAMES! SOME PEOPLE ARE TRAPPED IN THE TOWER ABOVE THE FIRE!

WHY DON'T THE FIREMEN RESCUE THEM?

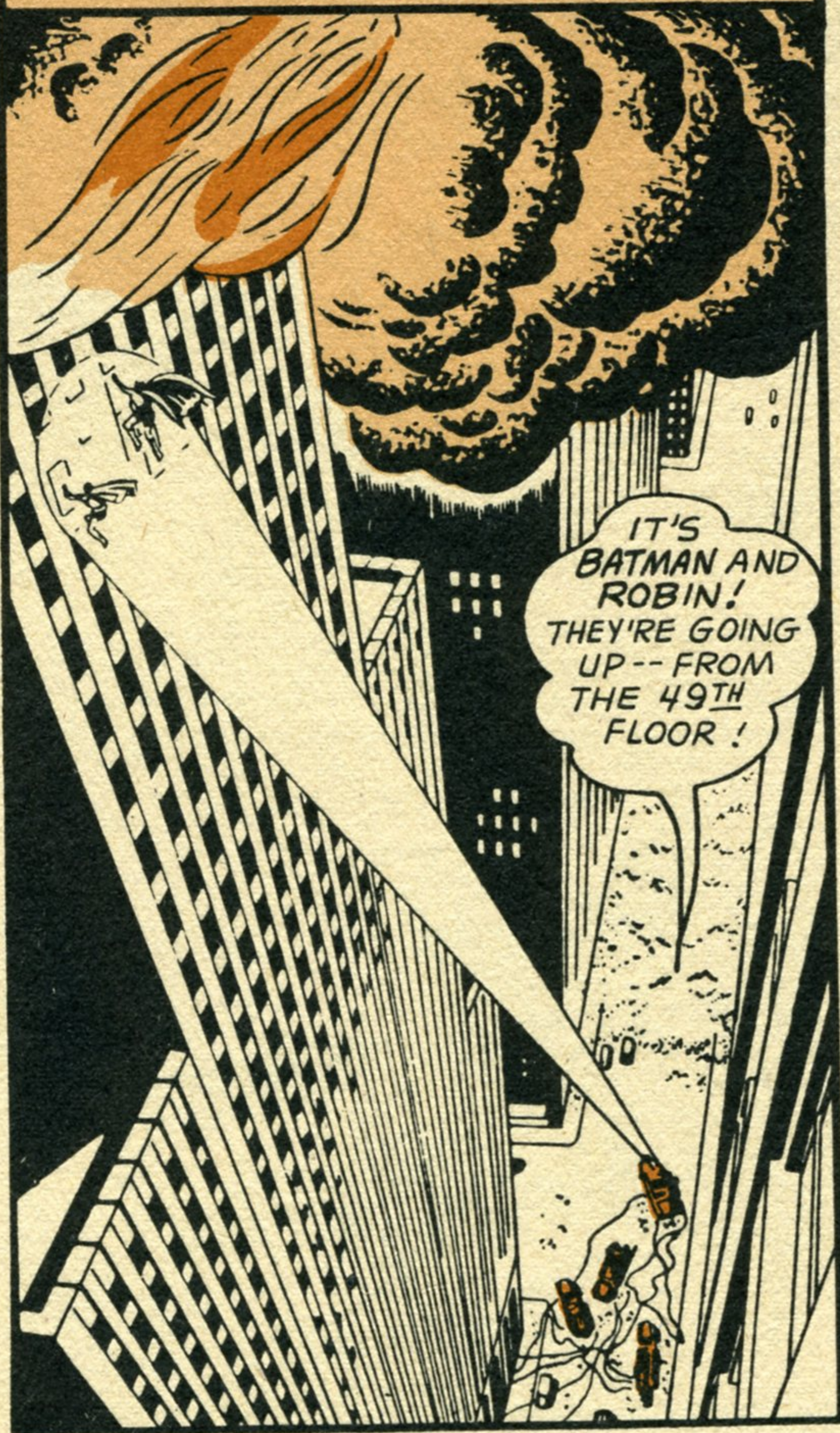


THEY TRIED, BUT THE DOORS ON THE 50TH FLOOR ARE ALL JAMMED-- APPARENTLY BY HEAT!

WE'LL TRY IT-- FROM THE OUTSIDE!



TENSE SILENCE GRIPS THE CROWD AS TWO DARING FIGURES START A PERILOUS CLIMB !



CROOKS WEARING ASBESTOS FIRE-SUITS! THEY MUST'VE LOCKED THE 50TH FLOOR DOORS, SO THEY COULD LOOT THE UPPER FLOORS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE !



WRONG ! WHEN I SUSPECTED THIS FIRE WAS THE REASON FOR OUR CALL, I PUT ON MY FIREPROOF ASBESTOS BAT-COSTUME !



I'VE GOT TO LET THEM GO, TO SAVE THE PEOPLE TRAPPED IN THE TOWER ABOVE !



SHORTLY AFTER, WHEN THE FIRE HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED...

THE CROOKS GOT AWAY-- THEY POSED AS FIRE-MEN IN THOSE SUITS !

CLEVER! NO ORDINARY CRIMINAL THOUGHT OF THAT, AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHO IT WAS !



BACK IN THEIR CRIME-LAB BATMAN SCRUTINIZES THE FILE OF MICROFILM...

THAT'S OUR MAN! I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIS FACE THROUGH THE VISION-PLATE HE WORE!

"DOCTOR ROBERT DARCY, EXPERT CHEMIST AND TECHNICIAN--" BATMAN, I HAVE A HUNCH HE'LL BE HARD TO FIND!

DR. ROBERT DARCY

HARD TO FIND, INDEED! THE RENEGADE SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED UNTIL, COMPLETELY BY ACCIDENT...

"--AND SO MILLIONAIRE REGGIE LAYTON AND HIS GUESTS START ON A UNIQUE PARTY IN THE SKY!"

LOOK--THOSE MEN BY THE HELICOPTER IN THE BACKGROUND!

ONE OF THEM IS DARCY! LET'S GET THERE FAST!

A QUICK CHANGE--AND SOON THE BATPLANE PICKS UP THE HOT TRAIL...

LAYTON'S GUESTS WERE LOADED WITH JEWELS--I'M CERTAIN THAT FACT ATTRACTED DARCY!

TURN THE DUST-BLOWERS TOWARD THE BLIMP! THEY'LL MAKE IT HELPLESS BY STOPPING ITS MOTORS!

I DON'T SEE HOW DUST CAN DO THAT!

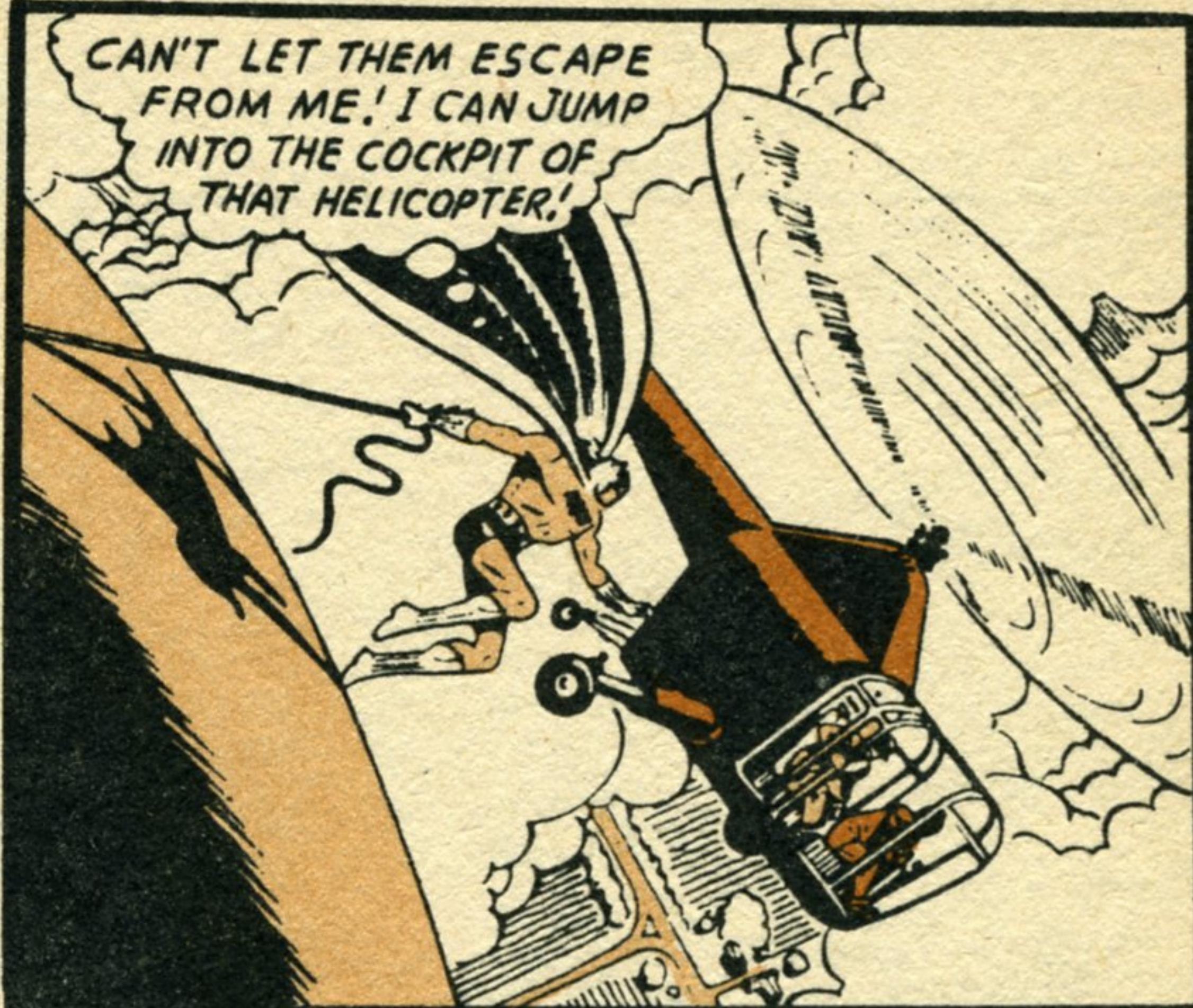
IT'S EMERY DUST BEING BLOWN INTO THE BLIMP'S MOTORS! NOW GET READY TO BOARD IT AND WE'LL HEIST A FORTUNE IN JEWELS!

THE MOTORS STOPPED--WE'RE DRIFTING!

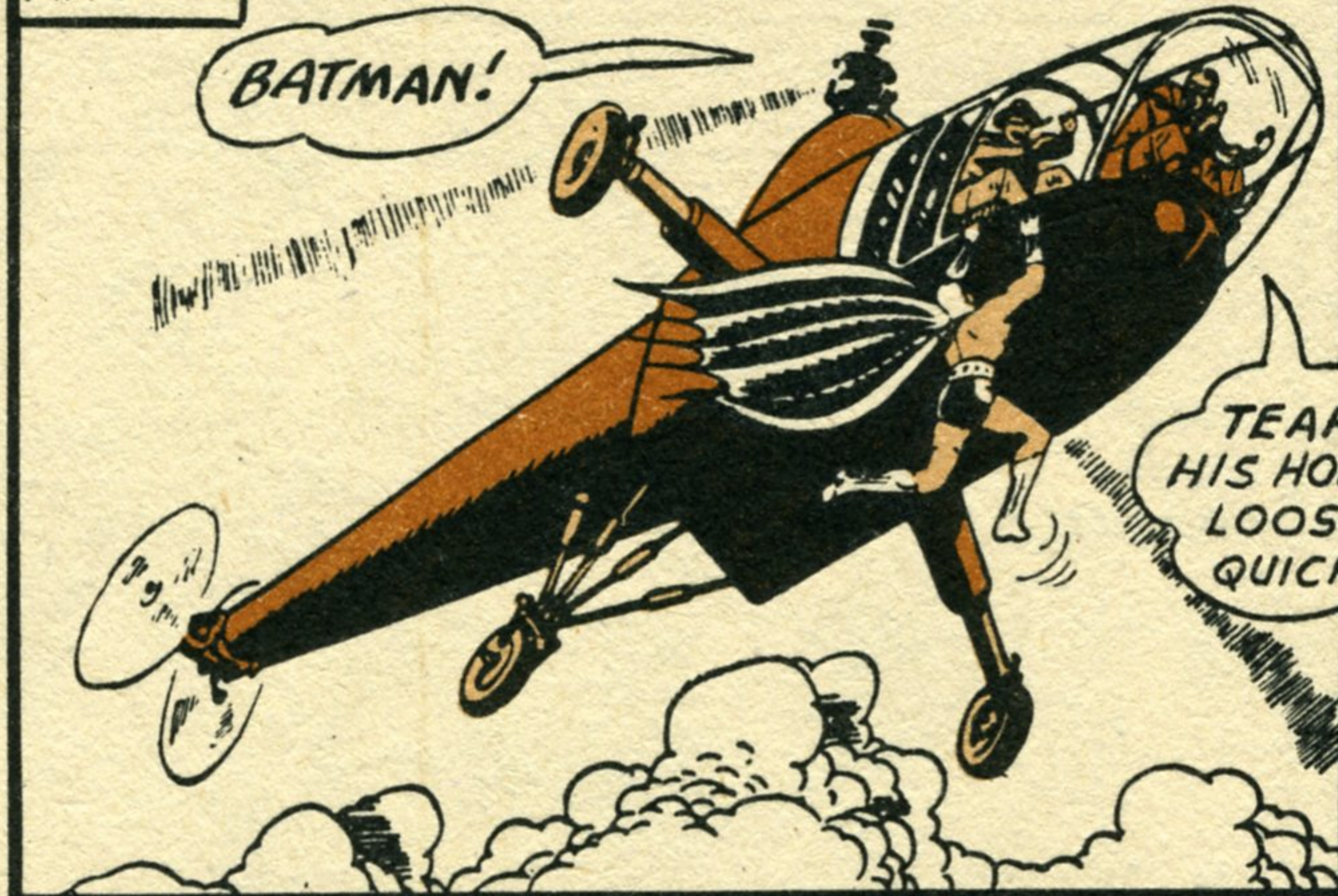
BATMAN, BE CAREFUL!

I'LL DROP ON TOP OF THE BLIMP AND WORK DOWN TO THE GONDOLA, ROBIN!

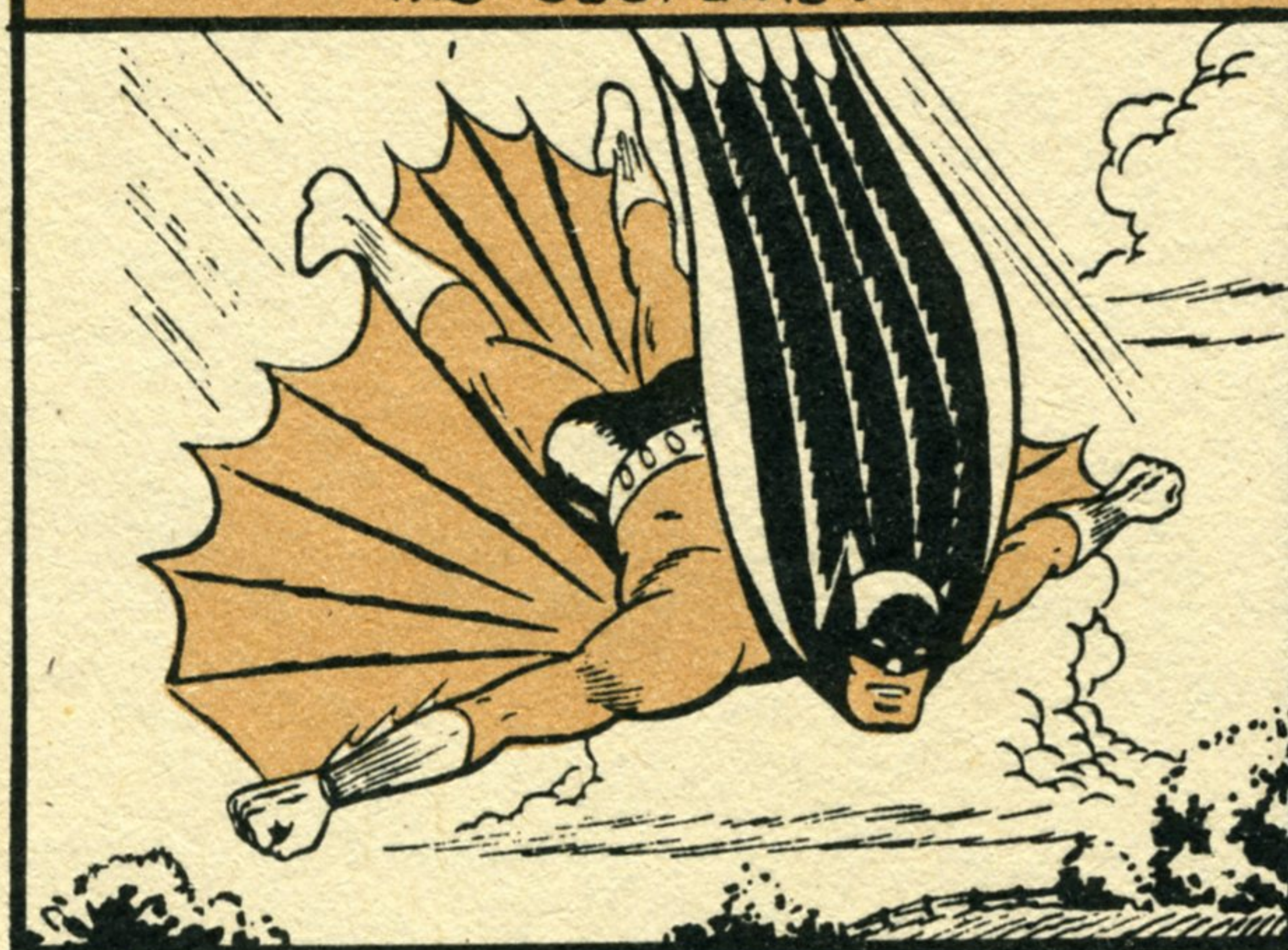
A QUICK DROP, AND THEN...



BUT A GUST OF WIND STRIKES THE BLIMP AS HE LEAPS, AND...



BUT PLUNGING EARTHWARD, **BATMAN** SWIFTLY UNFOLDS GLIDER-WINGS FROM HIS COSTUME!



LATER, AFTER TOWING THE DISABLED BLIMP TO SAFETY, **ROBIN** LANDS THE **BATPLANE** AND...



NEXT DAY, WHEN THE LINER SARONIA NEARS FOG-BOUND GOTHAM CITY, DARCY'S WIFE IS PROVEN AGAIN...

ARE WE ON OUR COURSE, HELMSMAN?

AYE, SIR! THESE RADAR DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS FROM THE PORT AUTHORITY WHICH GUIDE US EVEN IF WE CAN'T SEE, ARE EXCELLENT!

BUT SUDDENLY, A GRINDING, TERRIBLE SHOCK... THE RADAR SIGNALS WERE WRONG-- WE'RE ON THE ROCKS!

AND THERE'S A LAUNCH COMING ALONGSIDE!

THERE'S GOLD IN YOUR STRONGROOM! WE WANT IT!

YOUR SENDING OUT WRONG DIRECTIONS BY RADAR SURE WORKED, DOC!

THUS FEAR GRIPS GOTHAM CITY--FEAR OF RUTHLESS CRIMINALS WHO CAUSE DISASTERS TO CONCEAL THEIR ACTS!

EXTRA! BANDITS WRECK AND ROB SARONIA!

REPORTERS IN MY OUTER OFFICE ARE WAITING FOR A STATEMENT! IF PEOPLE AREN'T REASSURED, PANIC WILL RESULT! **BATMAN**, THEY BELIEVE IN YOU! YOU MUST REASSURE THEM!

I WILL-- IF YOU THINK IT'S NECESSARY!

THE POLICE ARE DOING THEIR UTMOST, AND I PROMISE TO DO MY BEST TO SMASH THIS GANG BEFORE THEY COMMIT ANOTHER CRIME!

OUR READERS WILL THANK YOU FOR THAT **BATMAN**!

BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN AN IDEA WHERE DARCY AND HIS MOB ARE!

MAYBE WE CAN FIND THEM! THAT FAKE RADAR TRANSMITTER THEY USED NEEDS A LOT OF POWER! THE ELECTRIC COMPANY CAN READ ALL METERS IN THAT COAST AREA TO SEE WHICH HOUSE USED ENORMOUS POWER LATELY!

LATER, WHEN SUSPICION POINTS TO A WATERFRONT ESTATE...

THEIR HIDEOUT MUST BE APPROACHED SECRETLY, OR THEY MAY ESCAPE! AND THIS BAT-UNIFORM WILL HELP ME!

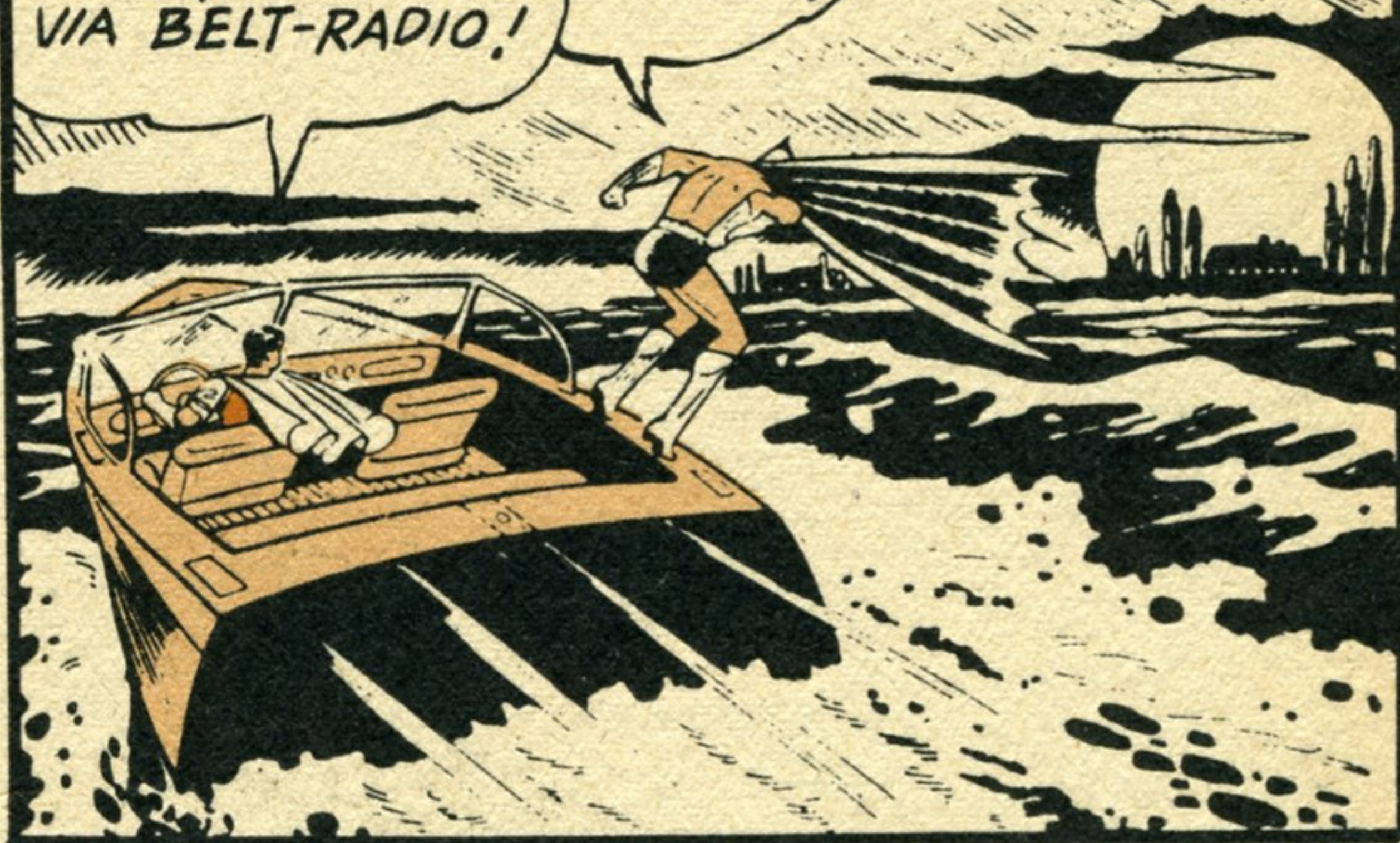
I WISH I COULD DO MORE THAN JUST HANDLE THAT SPEEDBOAT!



SOON...

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL VIA BELT-RADIO!

THEY WON'T EXPECT ME TO COME THIS WAY!



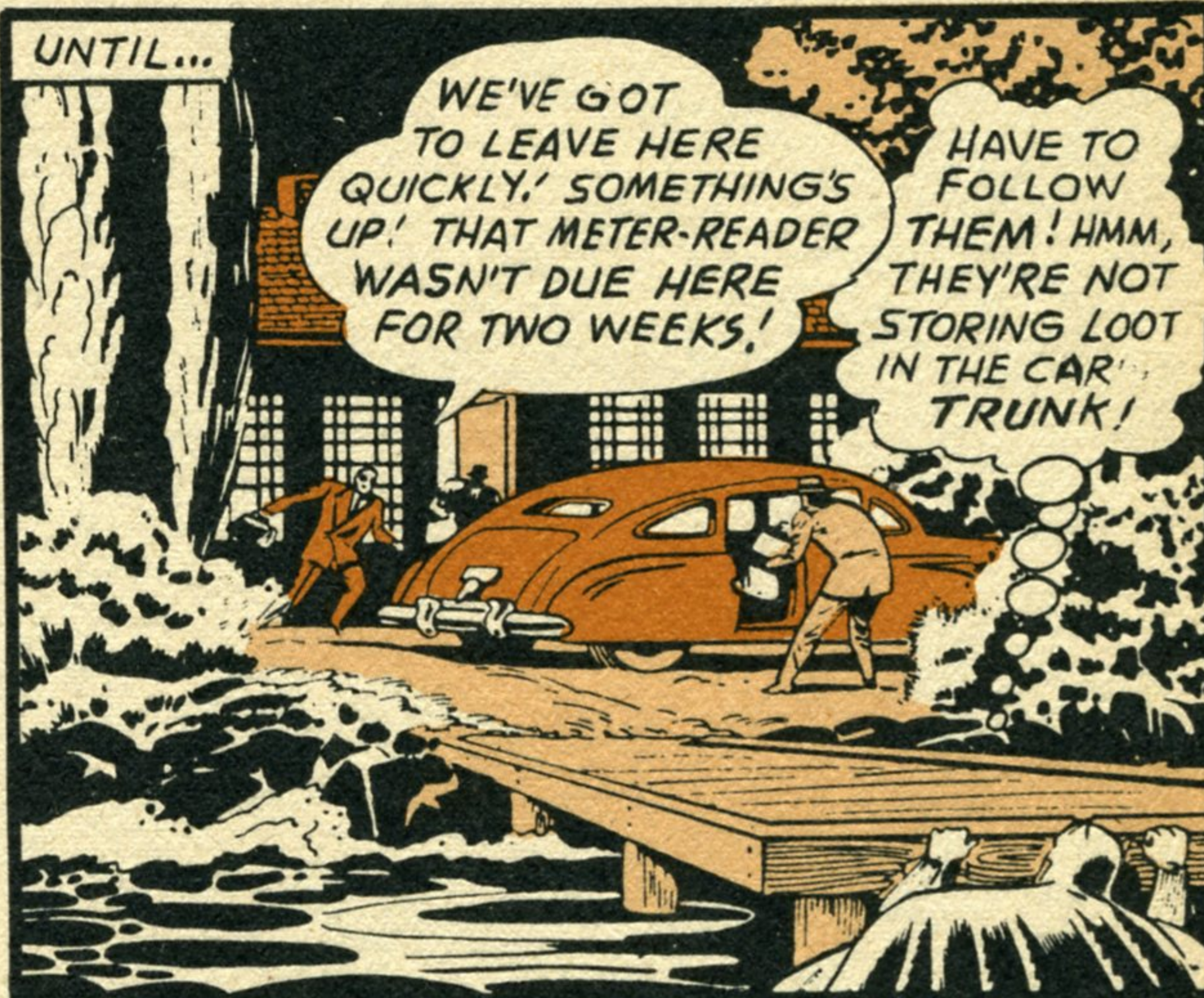
CLAD IN A UNIQUE BAT-COSTUME WHICH INCLUDES A SUPPLY OF OXYGEN, THE DARK FIGURE MOVES SILENTLY UNDERWATER...



UNTIL...

WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE HERE QUICKLY! SOMETHING'S UP! THAT METER-READER WASN'T DUE HERE FOR TWO WEEKS!

HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM! HMM, THEY'RE NOT STORING LOOT IN THE CAR TRUNK!



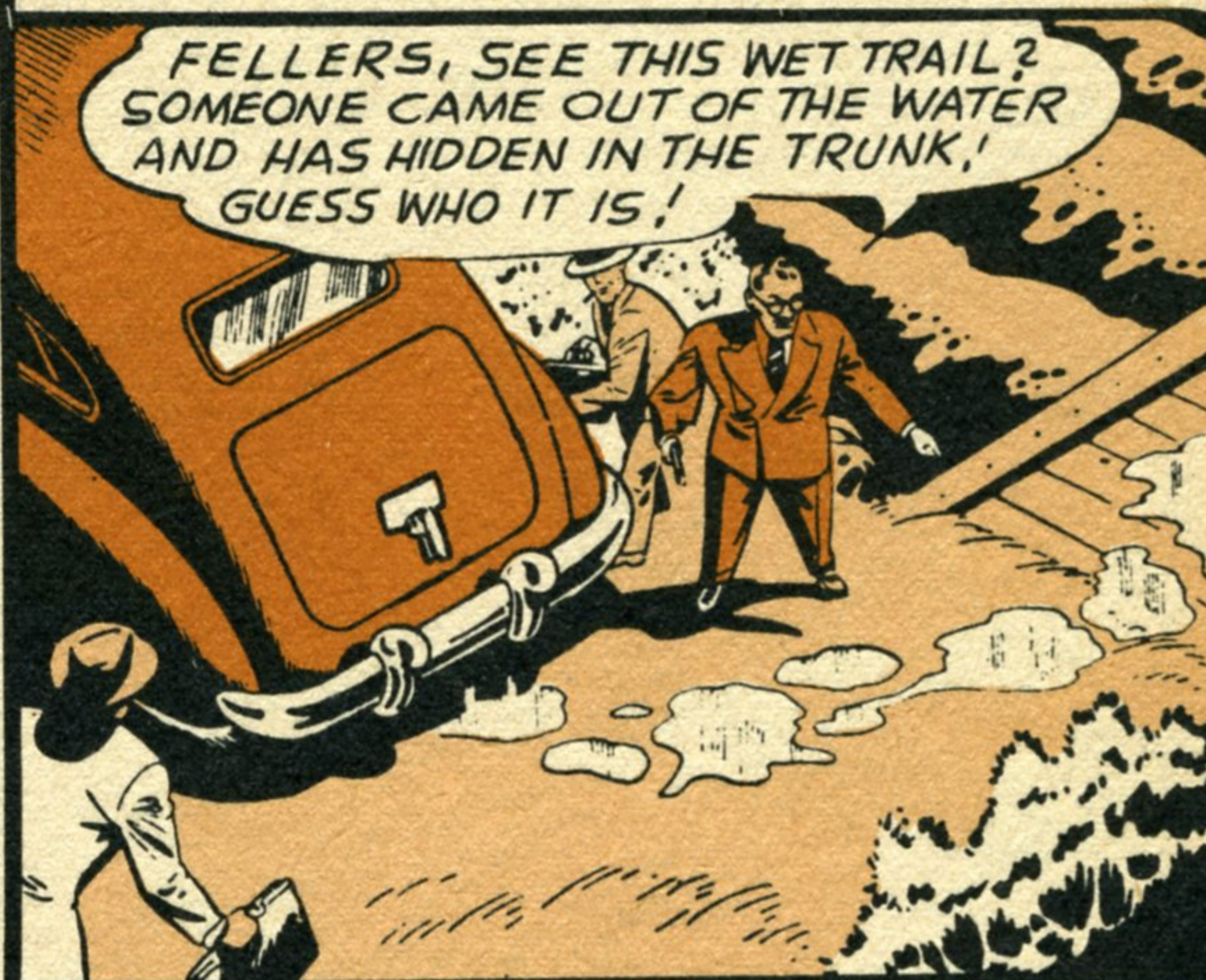
AS THE CROOKS RETURN INSIDE FOR ANOTHER LOAD...

ROBIN, CALLING ROBIN--I'M IN THE TRUNK OF THE BANDITS' CAR! THEY'RE LEAVING SHORTLY! I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN BY BELT-RADIO SO YOU CAN FOLLOW!



BUT BATMAN HAS LEFT WHAT MAY MEAN A FATAL CLUE, FOR...

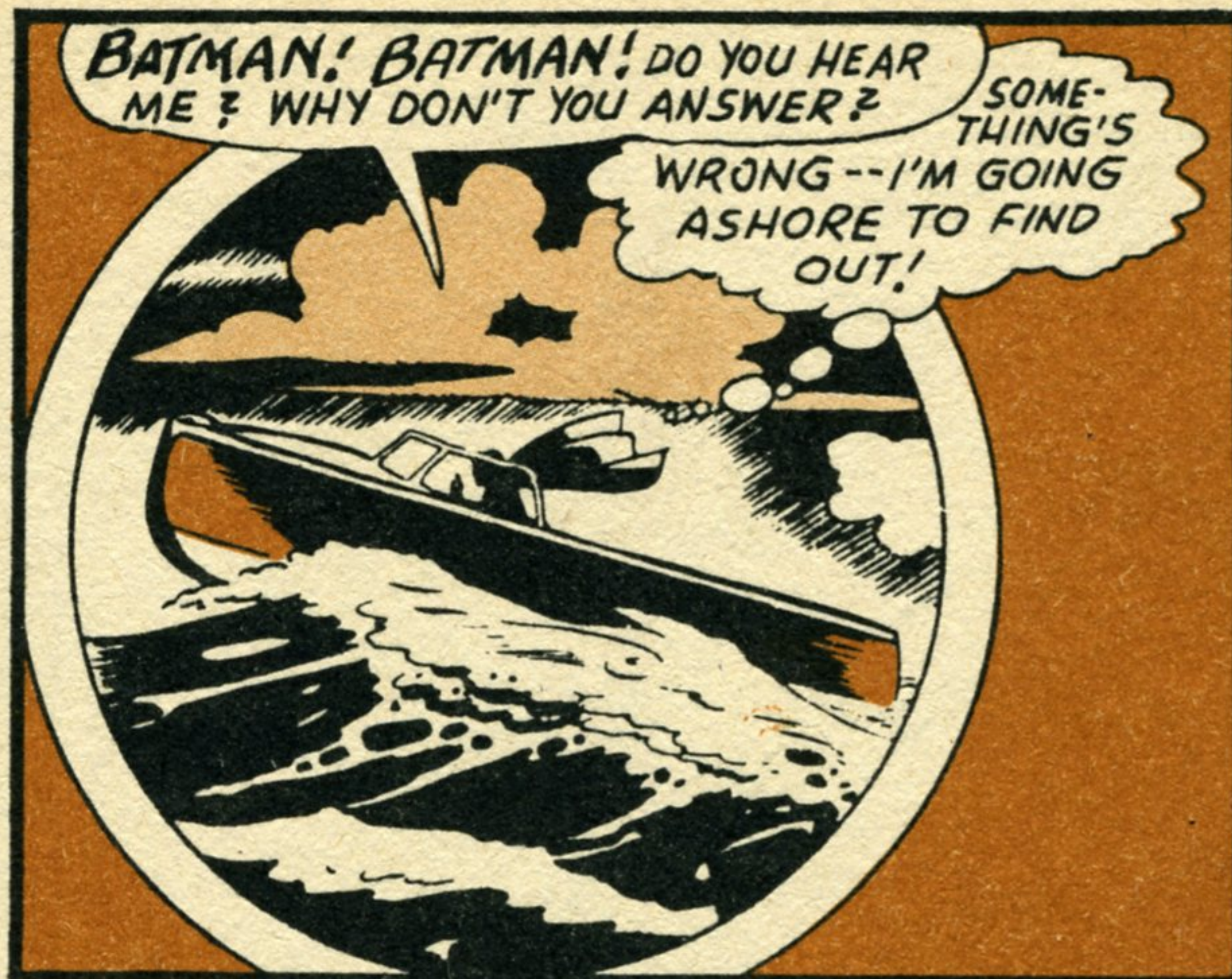
FELLERS, SEE THIS WET TRAIL? SOMEONE CAME OUT OF THE WATER AND HAS HIDDEN IN THE TRUNK! GUESS WHO IT IS!





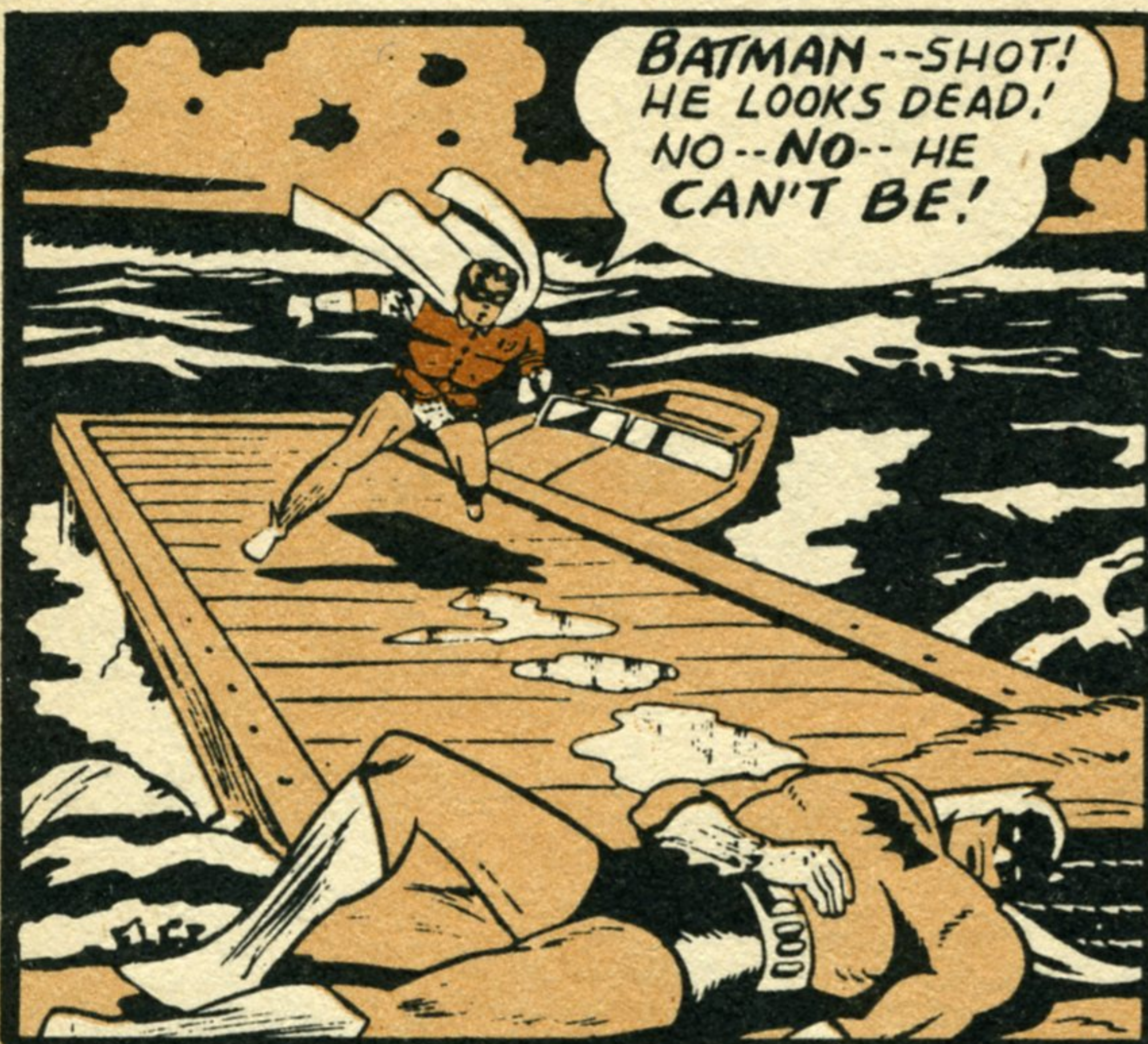
BATMAN! AND HERE'S A HOT WELCOME FOR YOU!

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!



BATMAN! BATMAN! DO YOU HEAR ME? WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER?

SOME-THING'S WRONG--I'M GOING ASHORE TO FIND OUT!



BATMAN--SHOT! HE LOOKS DEAD! NO--NO-- HE CAN'T BE!



ROBIN QUICKLY SUMMONS THE POLICE, AND WHEN THEY ARRIVE...

HE'LL PULL THROUGH, BUT HE MUSTN'T MOVE FOR A WEEK!

ROBIN, TAKE ME HOME!

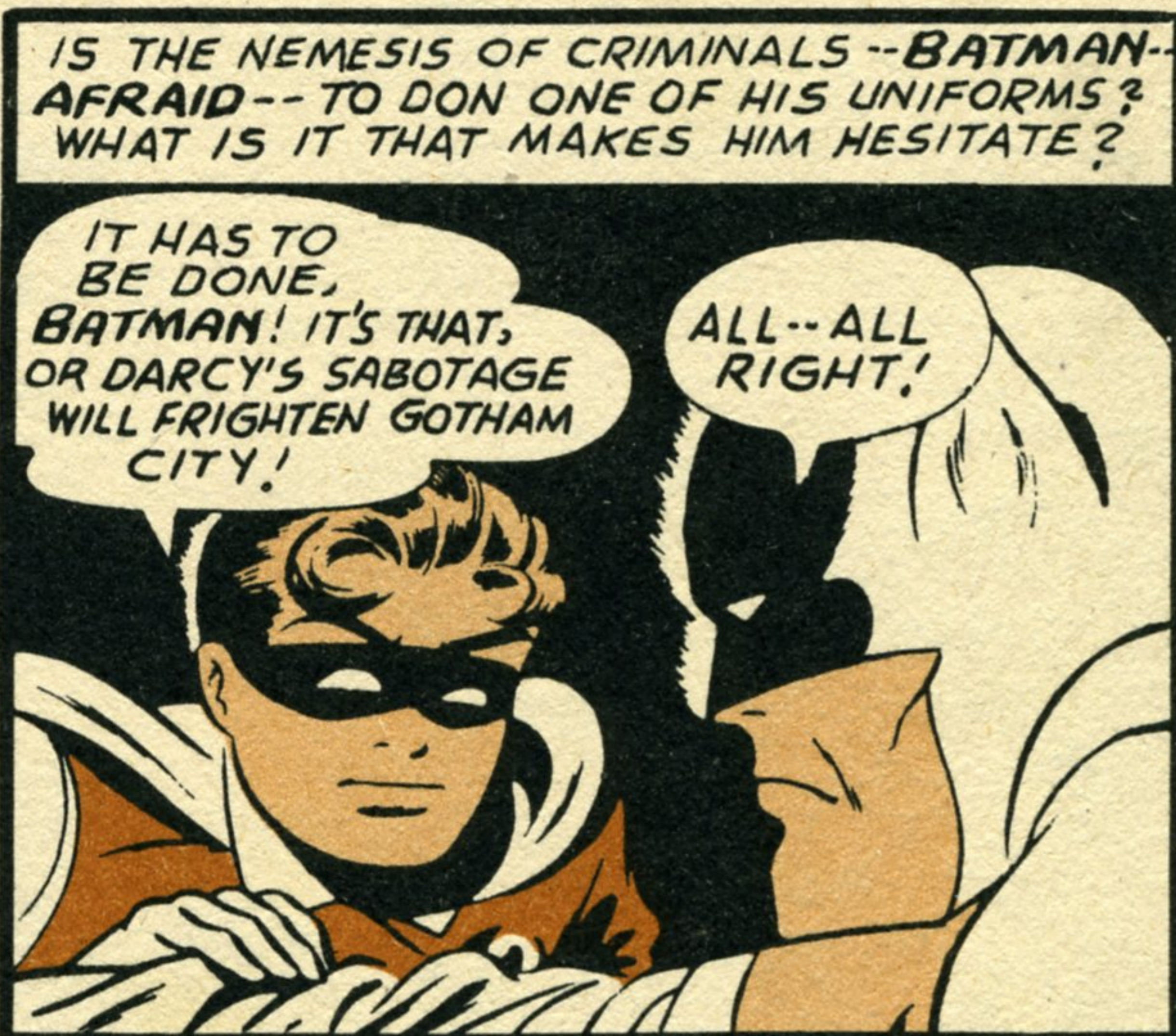
WHEN WORD GETS OUT THAT BATMAN'S DISABLED, THE CITY WILL BE TERRORIZED BY THOSE SABOTAGE BANDITS!



LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE--

NEWS OF YOUR INJURY IS SPREADING IN GOTHAM CITY! THE WHOLE CITY IS GRIPPED BY PANIC! BATMAN MUST APPEAR TO REASSURE THE PEOPLE!

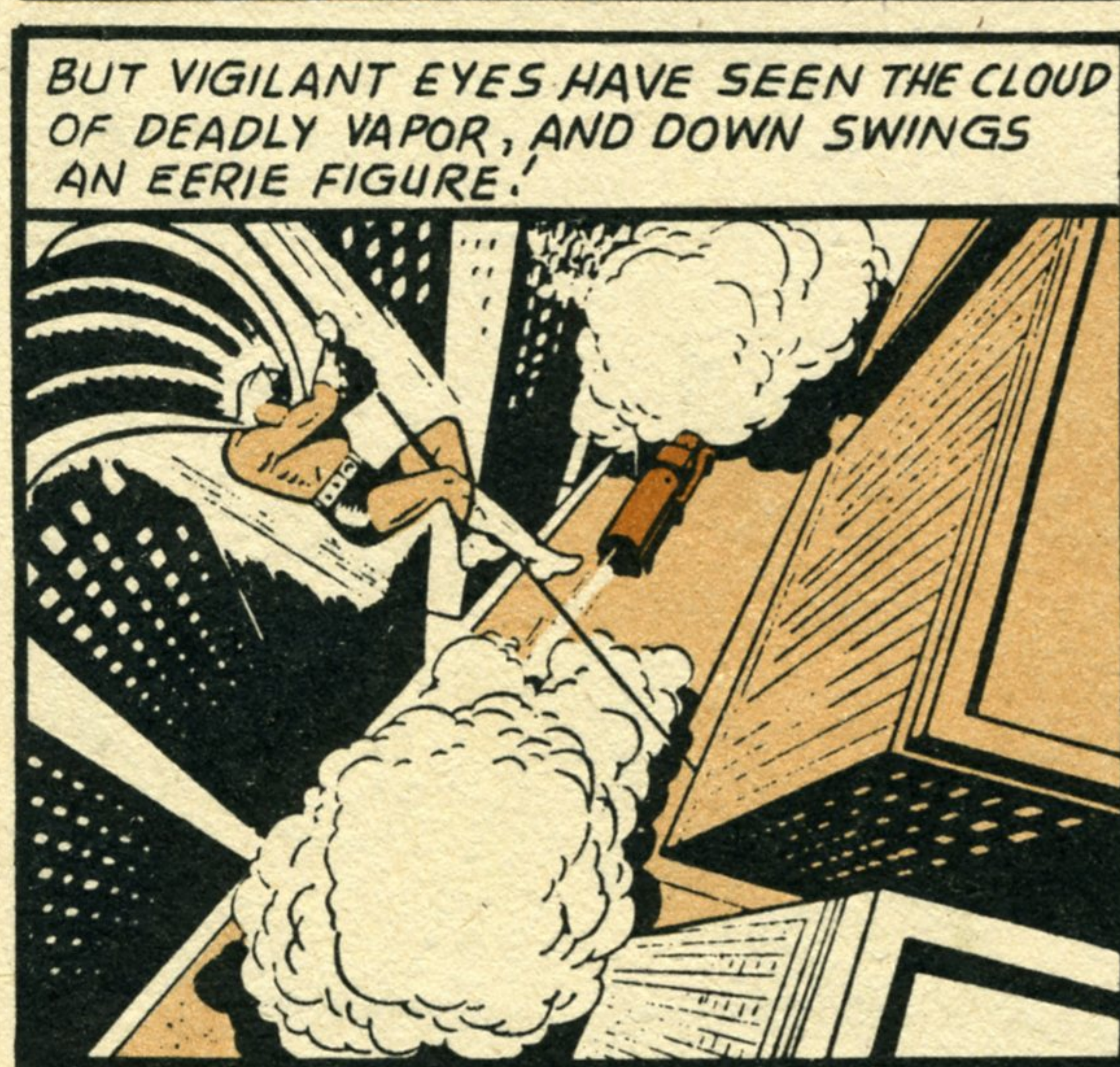
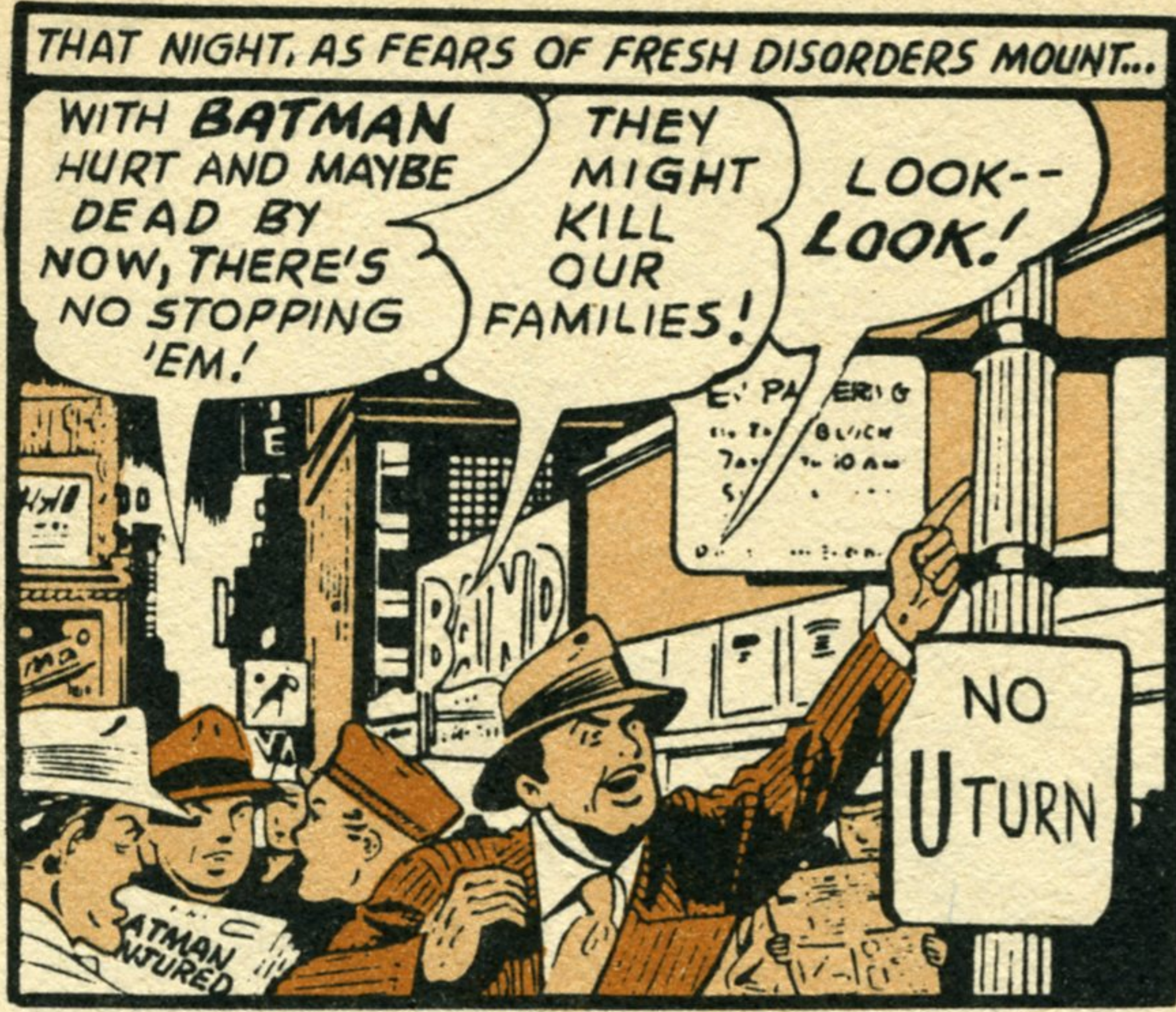
YOU MEAN, USE THAT EMERGENCY BAT-COSTUME WE NEVER DARED USE BEFORE? NO, ROBIN!

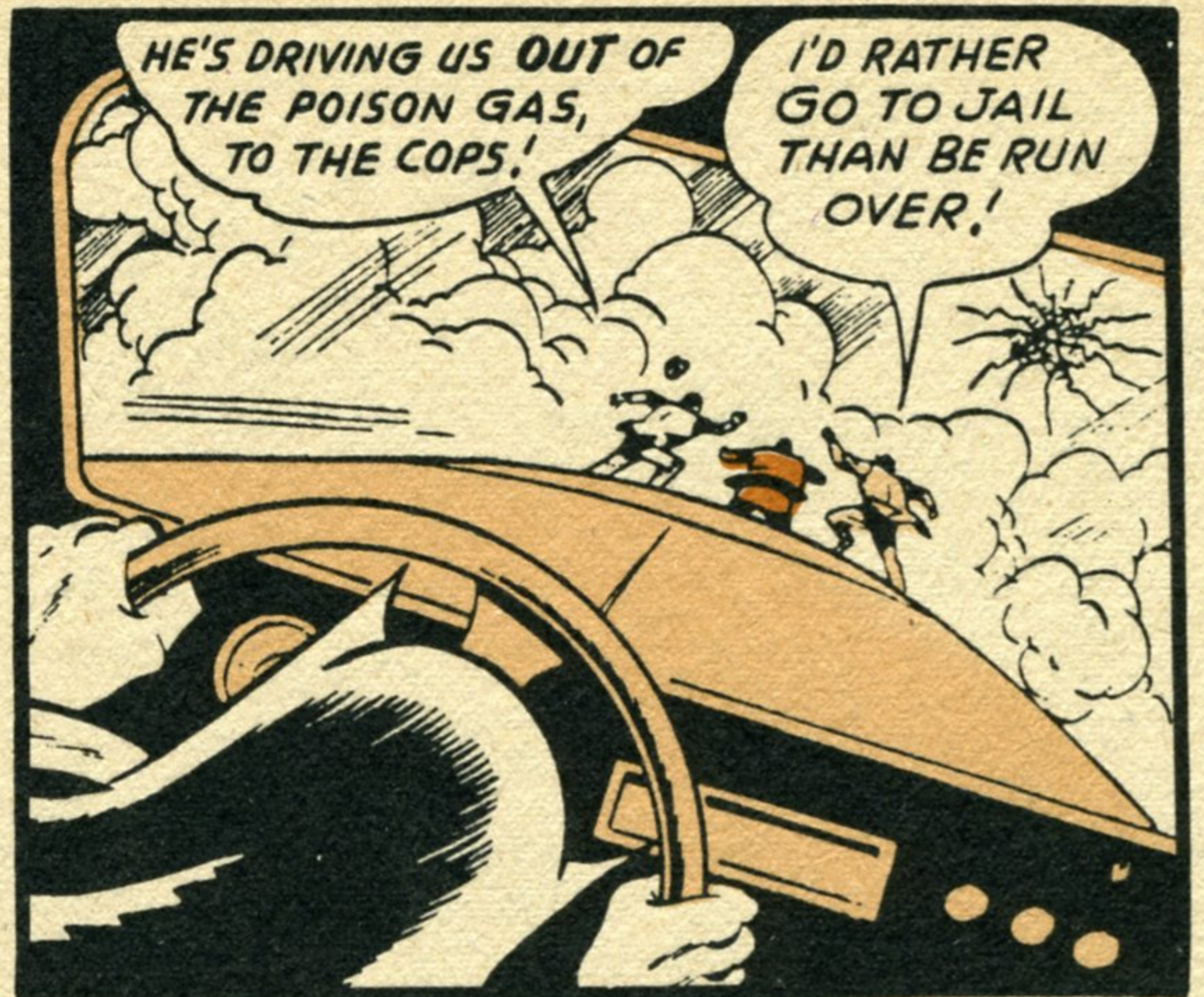


IS THE NEMESIS OF CRIMINALS--BATMAN--AFRAID-- TO DON ONE OF HIS UNIFORMS? WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES HIM HESITATE?

IT HAS TO BE DONE, BATMAN! IT'S THAT, OR DARCY'S SABOTAGE WILL FRIGHEN GOTHAM CITY!

ALL--ALL RIGHT!





HE'S DRIVING US OUT OF THE POISON GAS, TO THE COPS!

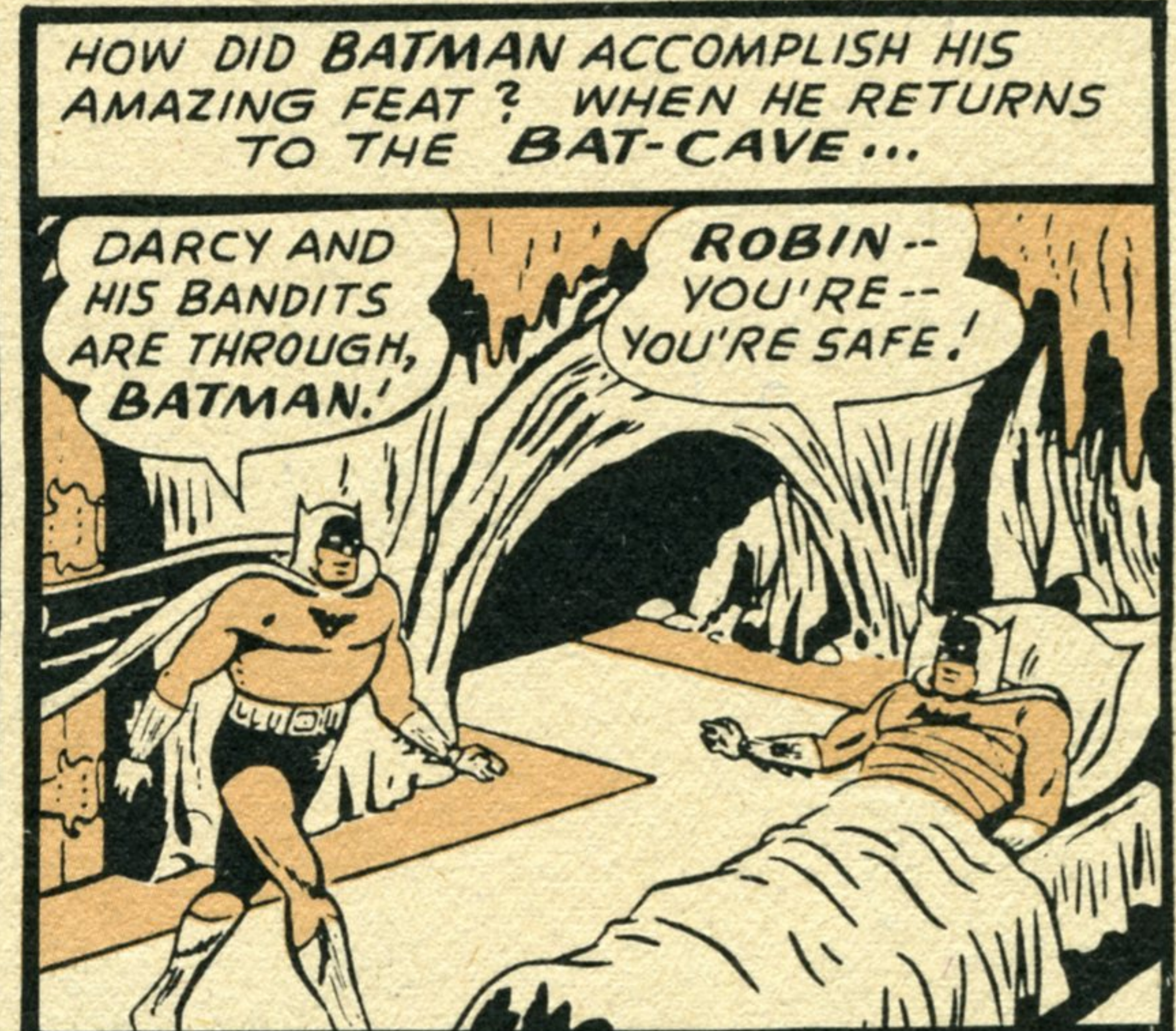
I'D RATHER GO TO JAIL THAN BE RUN OVER!



SOON...

BATMAN DIDN'T SAY A WORD-- BUT HIS WORK'S DONE!

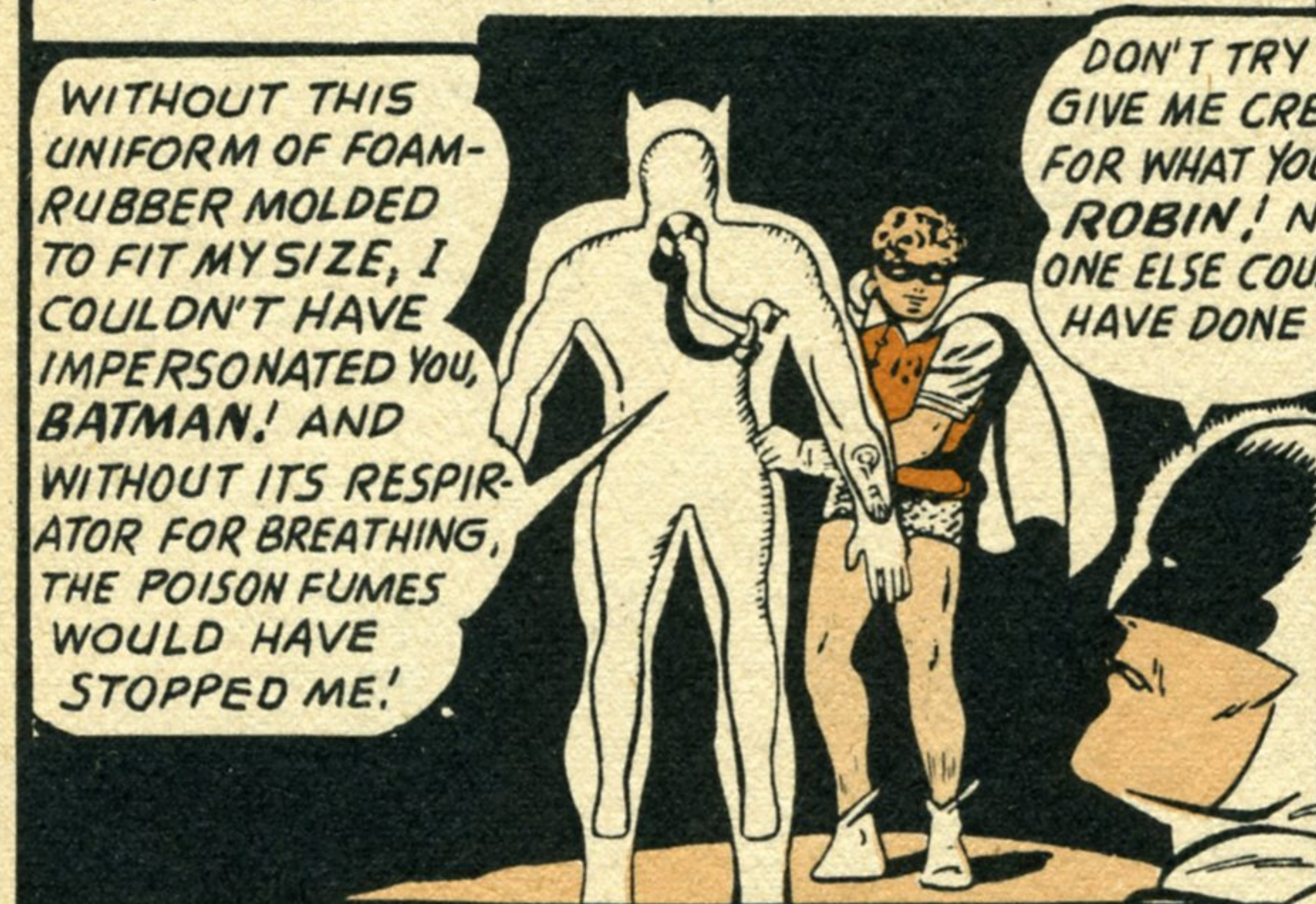
I SAW HIM TODAY, BADLY SHOT--YET HOW COULD HE DO THIS? HOW?



DARCY AND HIS BANDITS ARE THROUGH, BATMAN!

ROBIN-- YOU'RE-- YOU'RE SAFE!

NO BATMEN? AND ONE IS CALLED ROBIN? YES, THAT IS THE HOARDED SECRET OF THE STRANGEST BAT-COSTUME OF ALL!



WITHOUT THIS UNIFORM OF FOAM-RUBBER MOLDED TO FIT MY SIZE, I COULDN'T HAVE IMPERSONATED YOU, BATMAN! AND WITHOUT ITS RESPIRATOR FOR BREATHING, THE POISON FUMES WOULD HAVE STOPPED ME!

DON'T TRY TO GIVE ME CREDIT FOR WHAT YOU DID, ROBIN! NO ONE ELSE COULD HAVE DONE IT!

LET'S HOPE YOU NEVER HAVE TO PLAY MY PART AGAIN!

I DON'T THINK SO! IN A LITTLE WHILE, YOUR WOUND WILL BE HEALED, AND THE ONE AND ONLY BATMAN WILL CARRY ON!

AND THAT IS WHY THE MYSTERY COSTUME BEARS A RED-BREASTED BIRD-SYMBOL INSTEAD OF A BAT-SYMBOL--BECAUSE IT IS THE SPECIAL BUILT-UP DUPLICATE WHICH ENABLES ROBIN TO IMPERSONATE BATMAN!



The End

IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE, AS EVERY-
THING THAT BATMAN TOOK FOR
GRANTED SUDDENLY SEEMED A LIE ...
SOMETHING HE IMAGINED! INDEED,
EVEN DICK GRAYSON, WHO IS
REALLY ROBIN, DENIED KNOWING
BATMAN'S EXISTENCE! THUS, THE
MAN WEARING THE BATMAN
COSTUME SOON HAD TO ASK HIMSELF
THE TERRIBLE QUESTION ...

BATMAN & ROBIN

AM I REALLY BATMAN?



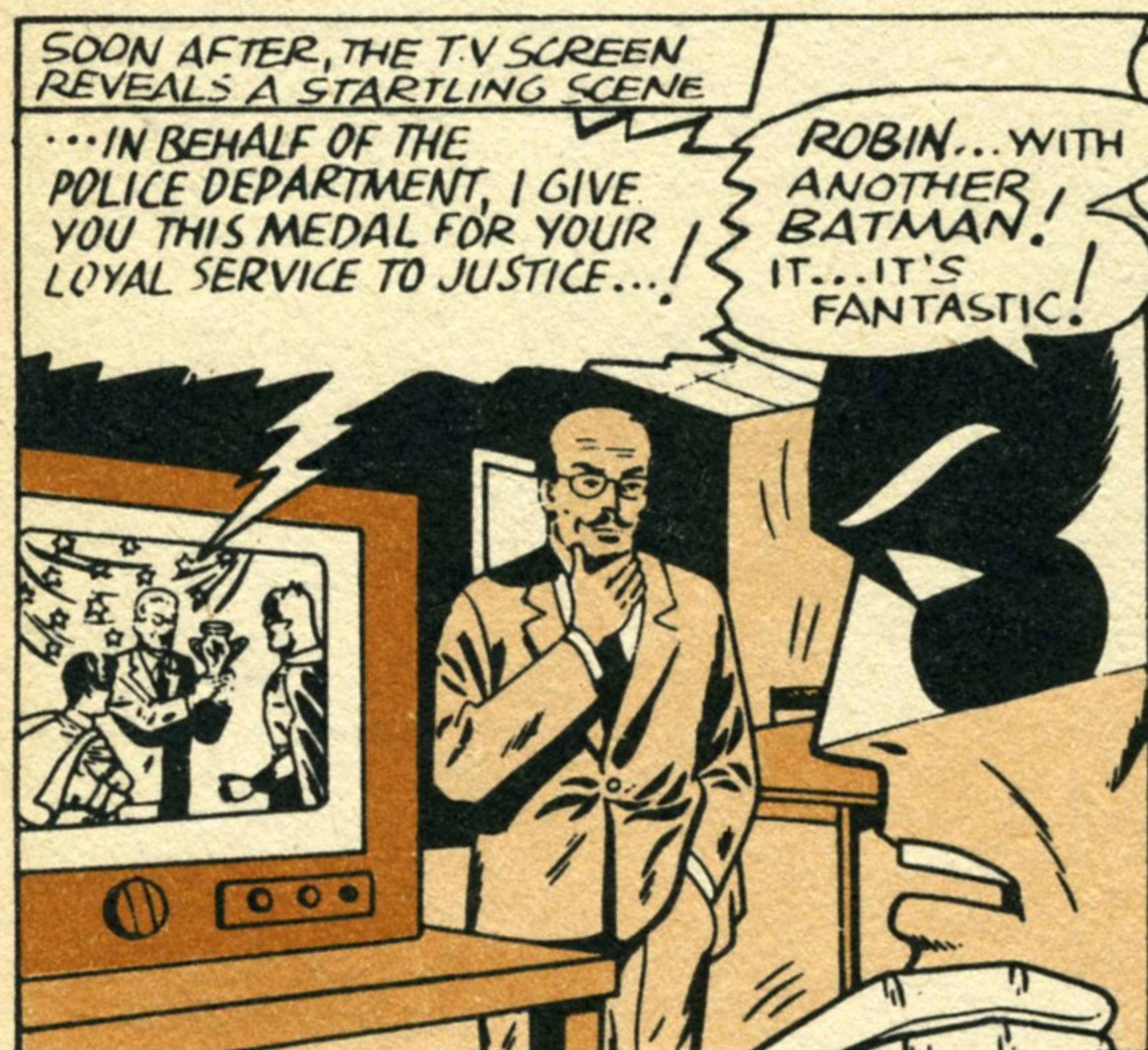
A CAPED FIGURE AWAKENS FROM SLEEP, STIRS LISTLESSLY....

SUDDENLY, THE EYES SNAP OPEN AS THEY FOCUS ON THE ODD SURROUNDINGS...





THE TERRIBLE THOUGHT ROUSES BATMAN INTO A NEAR FRENZY...



ONE THOUGHT DRIVES BATMAN ONWARD... ESCAPE...

THUS DOES BATMAN, WHO HAS HUNTED HUNDREDS OF CRIMINALS, FIND HIMSELF A HUNTED MAN!

I'VE GOT TO PROVE MY IDENTITY... AND I CAN'T DO IT WHILE I'M TRAPPED IN HERE!

JOE! HE'S GETTING AWAY! PHONE THE POLICE!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR AN INMATE WHO BELIEVES HE IS BATMAN!

NOW I'M THE ONE HIDING FROM THE POLICE! I'LL NEVER CONVINCE ANYONE I'M THE REAL BATMAN... NOT WHILE I'M BEING IMPERSONATED...

HOW COULD ALL OF THIS HAPPENED? THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS CAPTURING THE RENEGADE SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR MILO! THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER... WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?

WHERE CAN I GO NOW? HOME?... TO THE WAYNE MANSION? OF COURSE... I'M REALLY BRUCE WAYNE... AND ROBIN IS REALLY DICK GRAYSON, MY WARD! ONCE I UNMASK MYSELF, DICK WILL KNOW THE TRUTH!

BUT THE WAY HOME IS A PATH OF CONSTANT PERIL

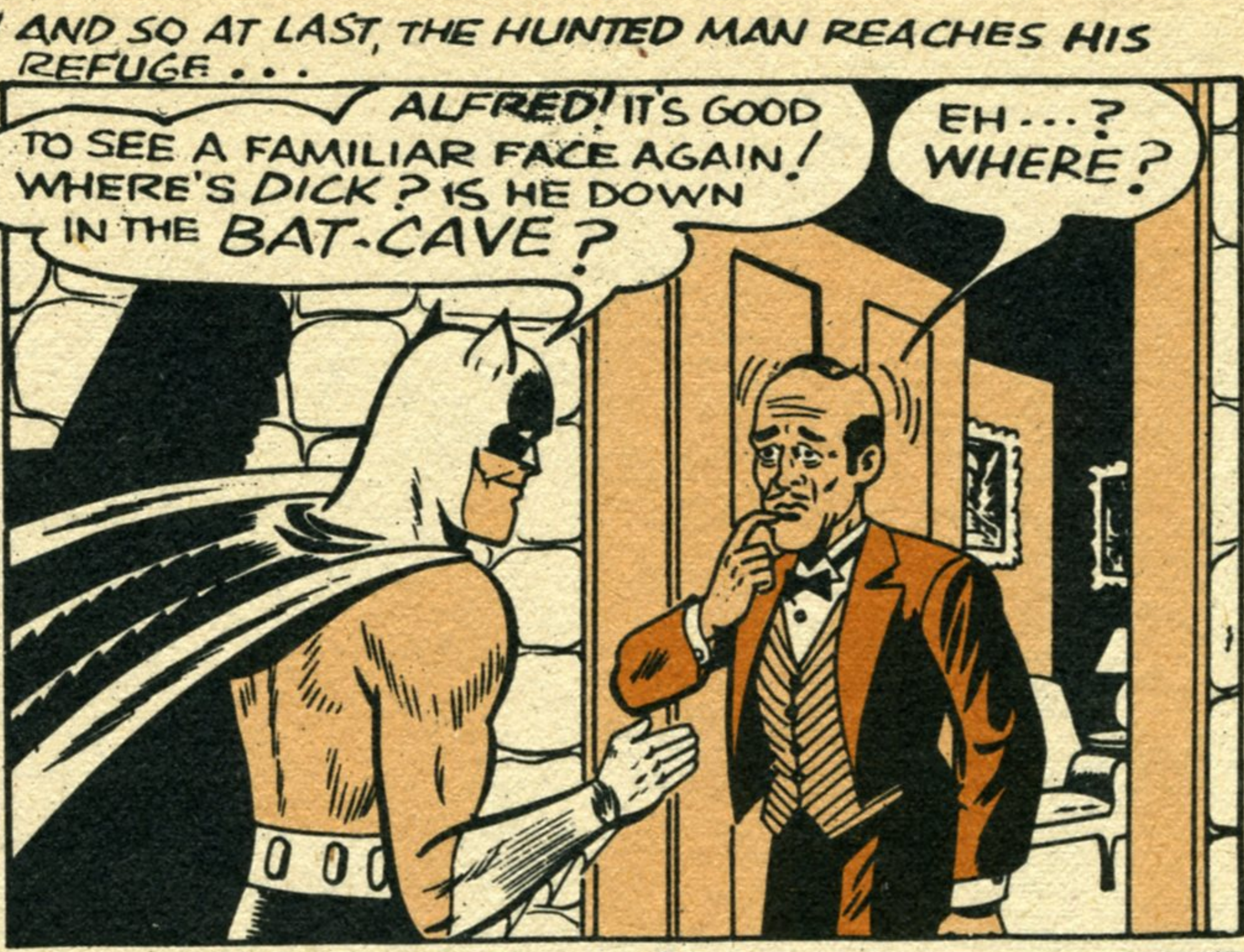
THERE HE IS... THE MADMAN WHO THINKS HE'S BATMAN!

COMING AT ME FROM BOTH SIDES! ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

HE GOT AWAY!



LATER, AS BATMAN APPROACHES THE WAYNE MANSION... MUST MAKE SURE THE POLICE HAVEN'T TRAILED ME HERE... OTHERWISE THEY'LL REALIZE THAT THE SECRET IDENTITY OF BATMAN IS BRUCE WAYNE!



AND SO AT LAST, THE HUNTED MAN REACHES HIS REFUGE...
ALFRED! IT'S GOOD TO SEE A FAMILIAR FACE AGAIN! WHERE'S DICK? IS HE DOWN IN THE BAT-CAVE?
EH...? WHERE?



SWIFTLY, BATMAN RUSHES PAST THE BUTLER AND HURRIES DOWNSTAIRS, ONLY TO DISCOVER...
THE BAT-CAVE... IT'S GONE! DICK... WHERE'S THE BAT-CAVE?
GASP! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NO BAT-CAVE HERE!



MINUTES LATER, ANOTHER SHOCK GREET'S BATMAN AS A THIRD FIGURE DESCENDS...
GREAT SCOTT! WHO... WHO ARE YOU?
BRUCE WAYNE, OF COURSE!



YOU CAN'T BE! I'M BRUCE WAYNE! YOU'RE AN IMPOSTER! DICK, LOOK AT MY FACE! HE'S TRICKED YOU! YOU KNOW MY SECRET IDENTITY... YOU KNOW I'M BATMAN!



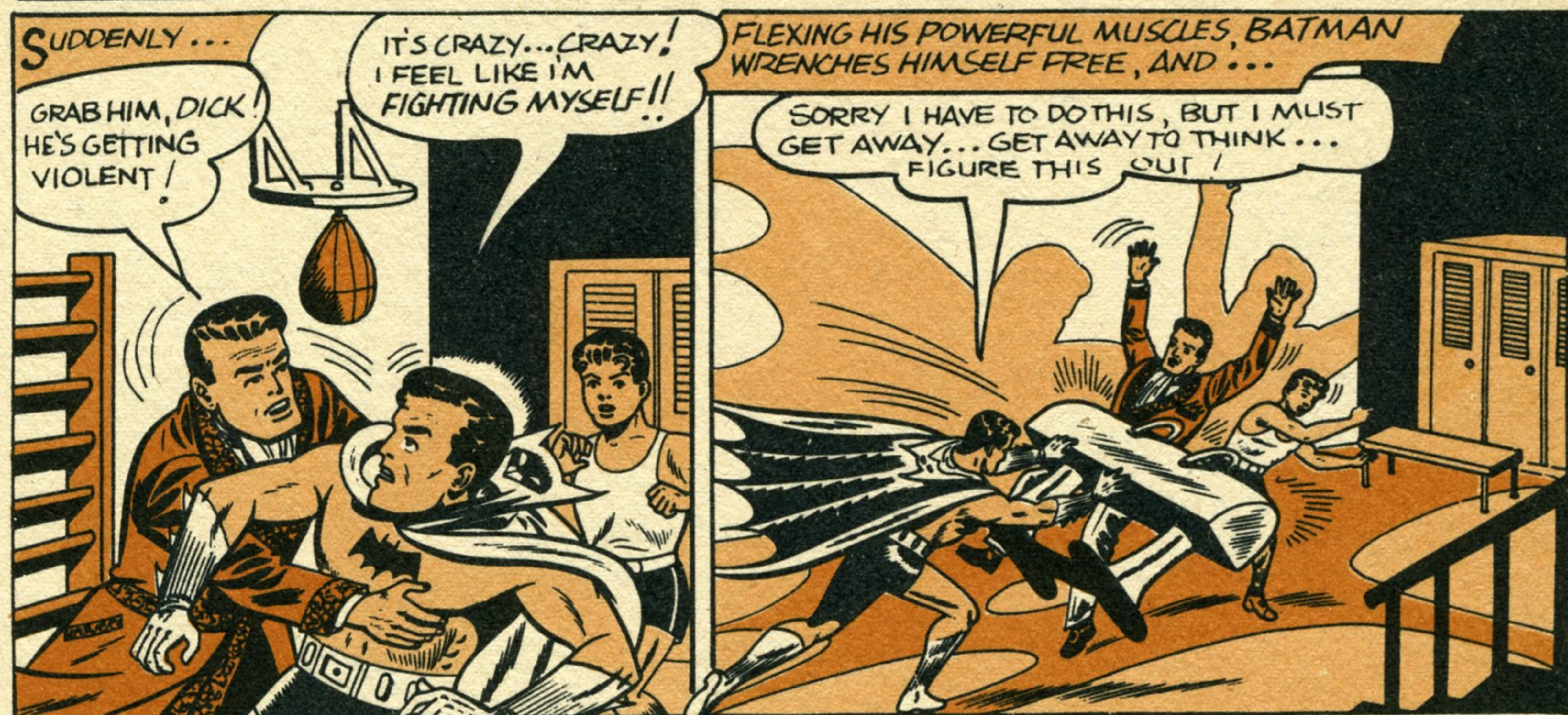
THIS MUST BE THAT ESCAPED MAD-MAN! POOR FELLOW... HE'S READ SO MUCH ABOUT BATMAN THAT HE FINALLY IMAGINED HE IS BATMAN! AND, BECAUSE HE RESEMBLES ME, HE THINKS BRUCE WAYNE IS BATMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY!
TCH-TCH... AND HE PROBABLY THINKS I'M ROBIN!



IS THAT BOY AN IMPOSTER, TOO? NO...I RECOGNIZE THAT BIRTHMARK ON HIS SHOULDER! HE IS DICK! BUT WHY IS HE DENYING HE'S ROBIN? WHY? WHY?

LOOK...I SAW BRUCE GET THAT NICK ON HIS CHEEK WHILE SHAVING TWO DAYS AGO! THAT PROVES HE'S BRUCE WAYNE... BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THAT NICK!

I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I KNOW I'M BRUCE WAYNE...I'VE ALWAYS BEEN BRUCE WAYNE! WHY ARE YOU DENYING IT, DICK... WHY?



SUDDENLY...

GRAB HIM, DICK! HE'S GETTING VIOLENT!

IT'S CRAZY...CRAZY! I FEEL LIKE I'M FIGHTING MYSELF!!

FLEXING HIS POWERFUL MUSCLES, BATMAN WRENCHES HIMSELF FREE, AND...

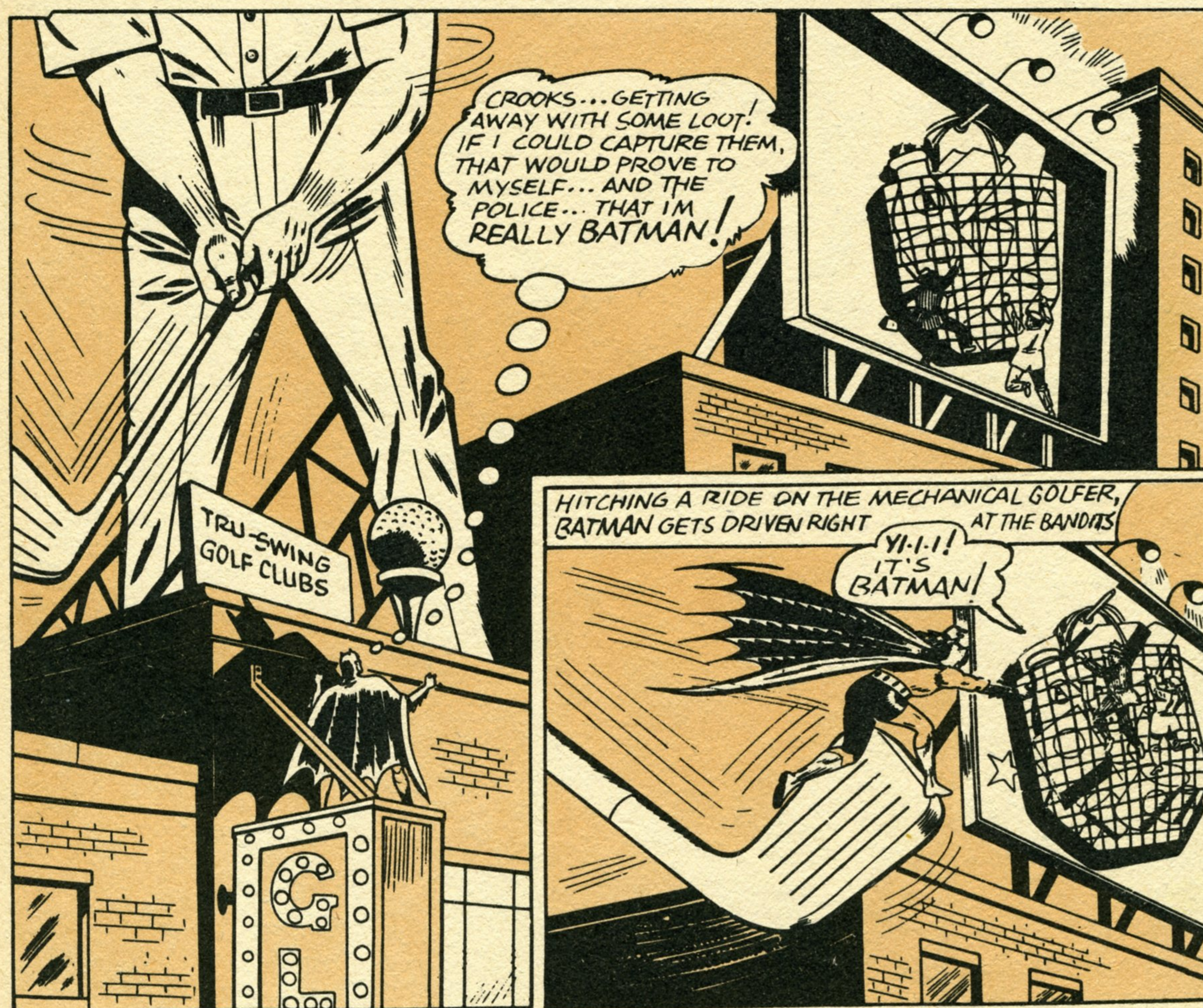
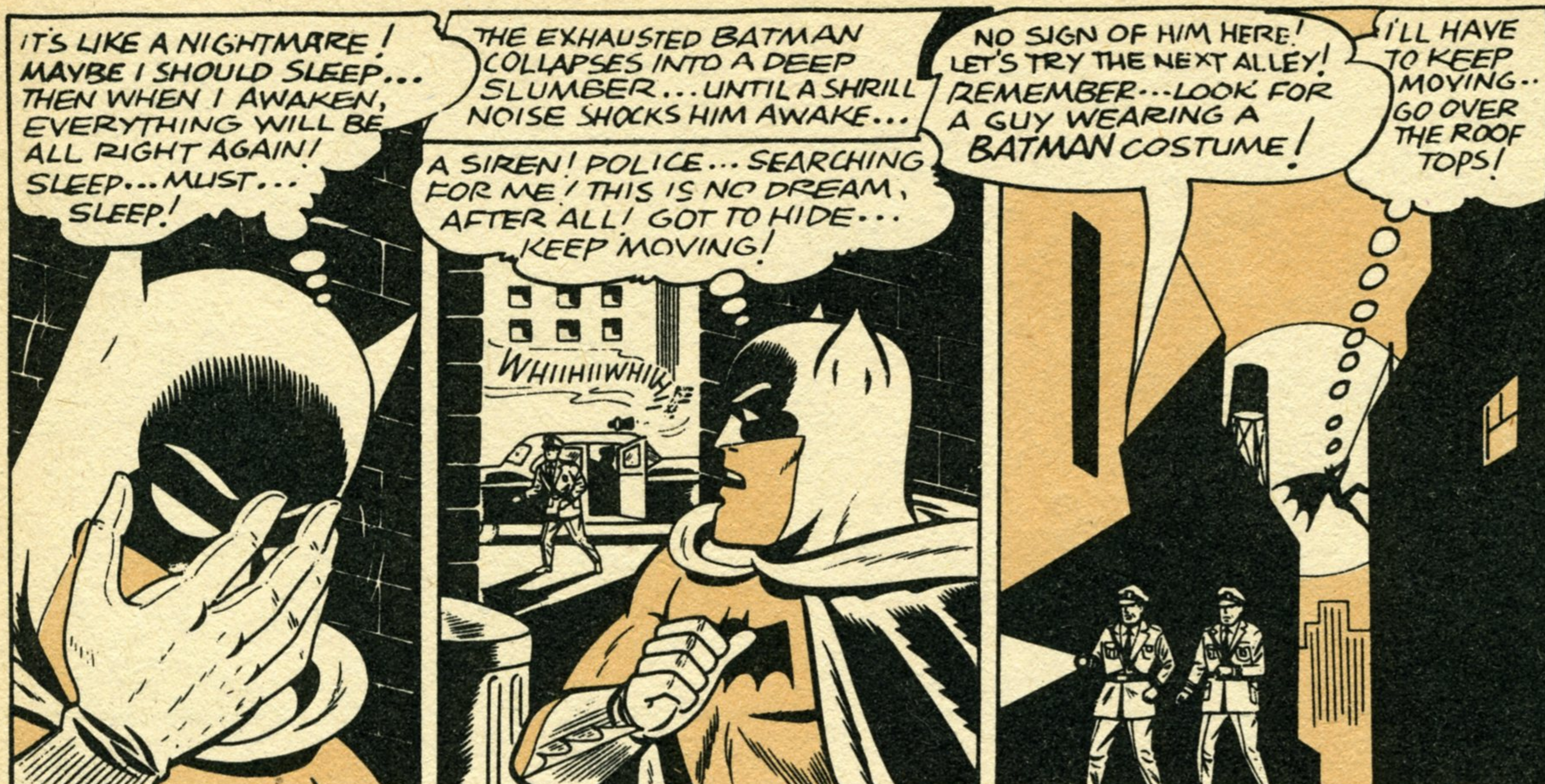
SORRY I HAVE TO DO THIS, BUT I MUST GET AWAY... GET AWAY TO THINK... FIGURE THIS OUT!



ESCAPING, THE HUNTED BATMAN SEEKS REFUGE IN THE SHADY ALLEYS OF THE CITY...

MAYBE I'D BE SAFER REMOVING MY COSTUME! NO... THAT WOULDN'T HELP! THAT IMPOSTER MUST HAVE TOLD THE POLICE I RESEMBLE HIM! THEY'D RECOGNISE ME, ANYHOW....

Sigh... FEEL SO TIRED... AS IF I DON'T CARE ANYMORE! TIRED OF FIGHTING AND RUNNING! MAYBE I HAVE LOST MY MIND... MAYBE I SHOULD BE LOCKED UP!



LANDING ON THE SIGN'S SHOPPING BAG, THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER FIGHTS WITH A FURY BORN OF DESPERATION...

PITCHING HIS UNCONSCIOUS FOE INTO THE COLOSSAL SHOPPING BAG, BATMAN PULLS ON THE DRAWSTRING, AND . . .

GOT TO CAPTURE THEM... GOT TO PROVE THAT ONLY BATMAN COULD HANDLE CROOKS THIS FAST!

WHEN THE CROOKS TELL HOW I CAPTURED THEM, THE POLICE MIGHT REALIZE I'VE BEEN TELLING THEM THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!

UP AT
DOWN
FOOD
SHOP!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT...

MY IMPERSONATOR... AND ROBIN! THEY'VE COME TO INVESTIGATE THE ROBBERY! HMM! A THOUGHT SUDDENLY OCCURS TO ME! I WONDER...

LATER WHEN THE BATMOBILE RETURNS TO THE BAT-CAVE, A FIGURE WARILY OPENS THE TRUNK . . .

THEY DIDN'T KNOW I CLIMBED IN HERE WHILE THEY WERE CHECKING ON THAT ROBBERY! SO, I'M NOT CRAZY AFTER ALL! THE BAT-CAVE WAS HERE ALL THE TIME... FORMED INTO A "BASEMENT" BY PROP WALLS!

ABRUPTLY...

ALL RIGHT, MY FRIENDS... START EXPLAINING! THE POLICE WEREN'T SEARCHING FOR A MAN WHO RESEMBLED BRUCE WAYNE... WHICH MEANS YOU DIDN'T TELL THEM! WHY? BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO PROTECT BATMAN'S IDENTITY!

AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN THE MAN POSING AS BRUCE WAYNE COULD ONLY BE SOMEBODY WHO ALREADY KNEW MY IDENTITY!

WE SHOULD'VE REALIZED WE COULDN'T OUTSMART YOU, BATMAN! BUT WE CAN EXPLAIN... NOW THAT 24 HOURS HAVE PASSED!

SWIFTLY, THE IMPOSTER REMOVES PADDED GARB AND MAKEUP, TO REVEAL...

ALFRED... JUST AS I FIGURED! YOU WERE MY IMPERSONATOR!

IT ALL BEGAN LAST NIGHT, BATMAN, WHEN YOU AND I WERE AFTER PROFESSOR MILO! YOU MADE ME WAIT OUTSIDE HIS HIDEOUT, IN CASE HE SNEAKED OUT... WHILE YOU RUSHED IN AFTER HIM...

"WHEN YOU BROUGHT MILO OUT, YOU SUDDENLY KEELED OVER..."

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BATMAN? HE SEEMS TO BE IN A COMA!

Ha! Ha! I'VE BEATEN BATMAN AT LAST! WHEN HE CHARGED INTO MY LABORATORY, HE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS FILLED WITH A GAS MADE FROM A RARE AMAZON PLANT! IT DIDN'T AFFECT ME BECAUSE I WAS WEARING NOSE FILTERS...

THE GAS HAS A UNIQUE EFFECT ON THE PERSON INHALING IT... THE PERSON LOSES THE DESIRE TO LIVE! HE LIES ABOUT LISTLESSLY, REFUSING TO EAT, AND EVENTUALLY HE DIES!
HA! HA! HA!

I QUICKLY DID SOME RESEARCH ON THE PLANT, AND LEARNED ONE FACT...

...IF THE PATIENT CAN BE GIVEN THE DESIRE TO LIVE, AND IS KEPT MOVING, AT THE END OF 24 HOURS, HE WILL RECOVER!!

"SO I WENT TO POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON WITH A PLAN..."

... YOU SEE, WE MUST GIVE BATMAN A PURPOSE FOR LIVING... A PROBLEM TO SOLVE... SO BIG THAT HE WON'T REST UNTIL HE HAS THE ANSWER.

ALL RIGHT! ROBIN! WE WILL COOPERATE WE ALL WANT TO SEE BATMAN LIVE!

SO I GOT ALFRED TO IMPERSONATE YOU, AS BATMAN AND BRUCE WAYNE... THE REST YOU KNOW! IT WAS A DRASTIC MOVE... BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE TO SAVE YOUR LIFE!

I AGREE... IT CERTAINLY KEPT MY BRAIN AWAKE, AND KEPT ME ON THE MOVE...

BUT... IT'S OVER NOW. I CAN SLEEP AND WAKE UP TOMORROW, KNOWING THAT EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL!

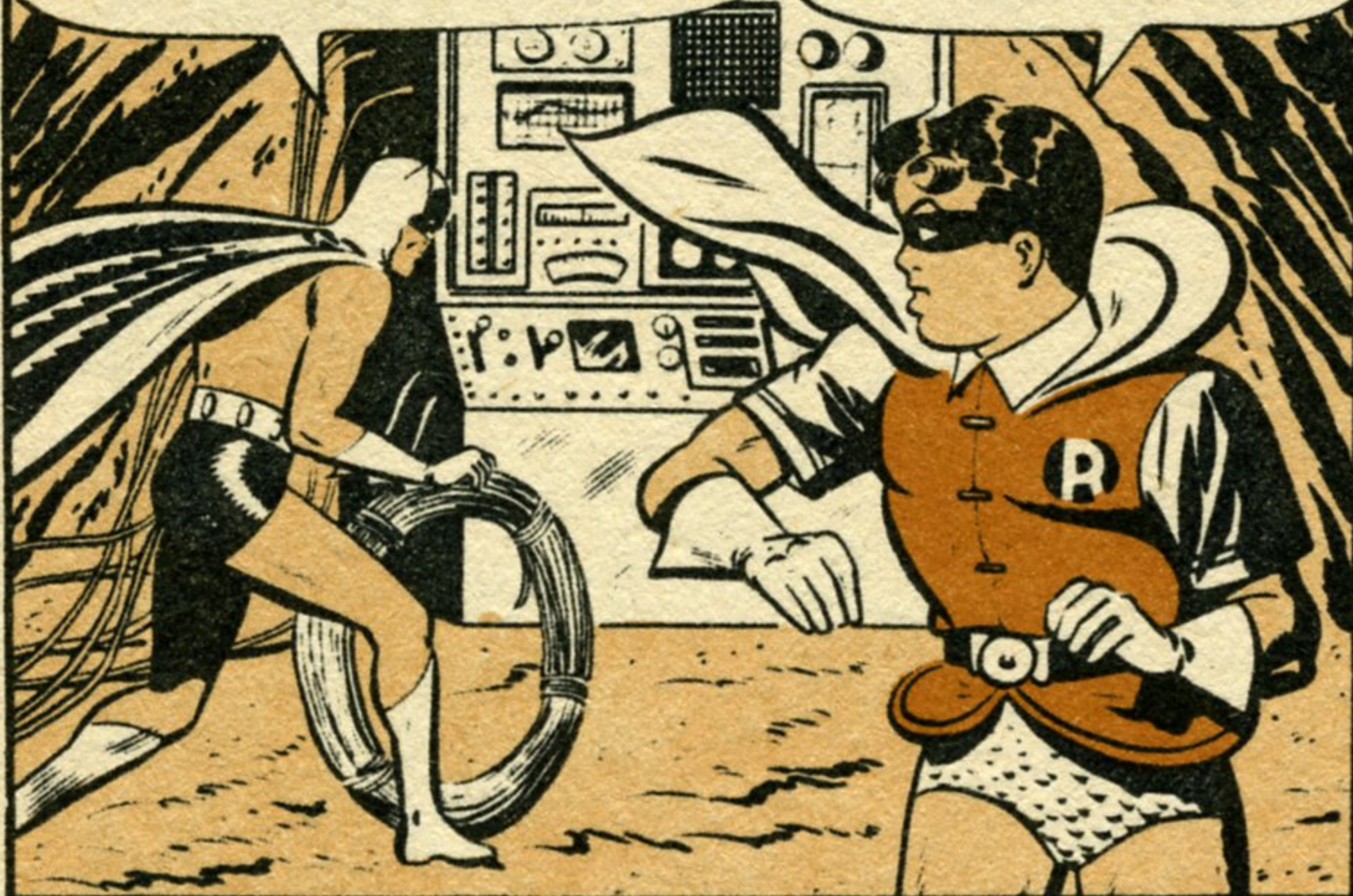
YES! AND BATMAN WILL BE BACK ON THE JOB AS USUAL!



ONE EVENING IN THE SECRET **BAT-CAVE**,
FABULOUS HEADQUARTERS OF **BATMAN** AND
ROBIN, THE **BOY WONDER**...

OUR NEW ELECTRONIC
EQUIPMENT IS PUTTING TOO
MUCH STRAIN ON OUR WIRING.
WE'D BETTER RE-WIRE, WITH
THIS SPECIAL CABLE...

HMM-- THAT
MEANS A DIGGING
JOB TO GET THE
CABLE UNDER-
GROUND. I'LL
GET THE SHOVELS!



SOON AFTER, IN THE MIDST OF THEIR LABORS..

BATMAN, LOOK
WHAT I DUG UP!
AN OLD PIECE OF
POTTERY-- WITH
SOME STRANGE-
LOOKING INSCRIPTION
ON IT!

HMM! THAT LOOKS
LIKE AMERICAN INDIAN
SYMBOLS, **ROBIN**!
VERY INTERESTING!
WHEN WE'RE
FINISHED WITH THIS
JOB, WE'LL
EXAMINE IT MORE
CLOSELY!



AND LATER, IN THE CRIME LAB...

YOU SAY THAT
GEOLOGIC
EVIDENCE
POINTS TO THAT
POTTERY BEING
THREE HUNDRED
YEARS OLD?

YES! AND IT
ESTABLISHES THE
FACT THAT THE
BAT-CAVE IS
AT LEAST THAT OLD,
TOO! AS FOR THE
INSCRIPTION, WE'LL
NEED A TRANSLATOR
FOR THAT!



GOLLY--IMAGINE
THE **BAT-CAVE**
BEING THAT OLD! YOU
KNOW--THIS PLACE HAS
ALWAYS INTRIGUED ME.
HOW DID YOU EVER
FIND IT, IN THE
FIRST PLACE?

OH-OH! LOOKS
LIKE WE'RE IN
FOR A SESSION
OF REMINISCING.
WELL, I DON'T
MIND. I'M KIND OF
FASCINATED BY THE
BAT-CAVE MYSELF!



AND AS **BATMAN'S** STORY BEGINS...

"ACTUALLY, **ROBIN**, THE **BAT-CAVE** WAS FIRST
DISCOVERED BY ACCIDENT! I HAD NO IDEA IT
EXISTED WHEN I PURCHASED THIS HOUSE AS BRUCE
WAYNE..."

YES,
MR. WAYNE-- I'M SURE
YOU'RE GOING TO
FIND THIS HOUSE
VERY COMFORTABLE!

HMM! IF HE ONLY
KNEW THAT IN THIS
HOUSE THE LEGEND
OF **BATMAN**
WILL BEGIN!



"I HAD PLANNED TO USE AN OLD
BARN AT THE REAR OF THE PROPERTY
AS MY SECRET HEADQUARTERS. BUT
ONE DAY, AS I WAS TESTING THE FLOOR,
IT SUDDENLY GAVE WAY!"

I'M
FALLING! BUT TO
WHERE? WHAT
COULD POSSIBLY
BE UNDER THIS
BARN?



"I SOON FOUND OUT! AND LUCKILY THE HAY FALLING WITH ME CUSHIONED MY COLLISION WITH A ROCKY CAVERN FLOOR!"

A CAVE! A TREMENDOUS CAVE-- AND FULL OF **BATS!** AN OMEN-- IF I EVER SAW ONE!



"I QUICKLY EXPLORED THE CAVE, SOON FOUND TUNNELS THAT WOULD LEAD ME TO THE SURFACE. AND I ALSO WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT THE CAVE RAN DIRECTLY UNDER MY HOUSE!"

THIS CAVE SHALL BE MY HEAD-QUARTERS! I'LL CALL IT THE **BAT-CAVE!** I'LL CLOSE OFF THE TUNNELS-- AND HAVE A SECRET ENTRANCE TO MY HOUSE-- WHICH I JUDGE TO BE RIGHT ABOVE ME!



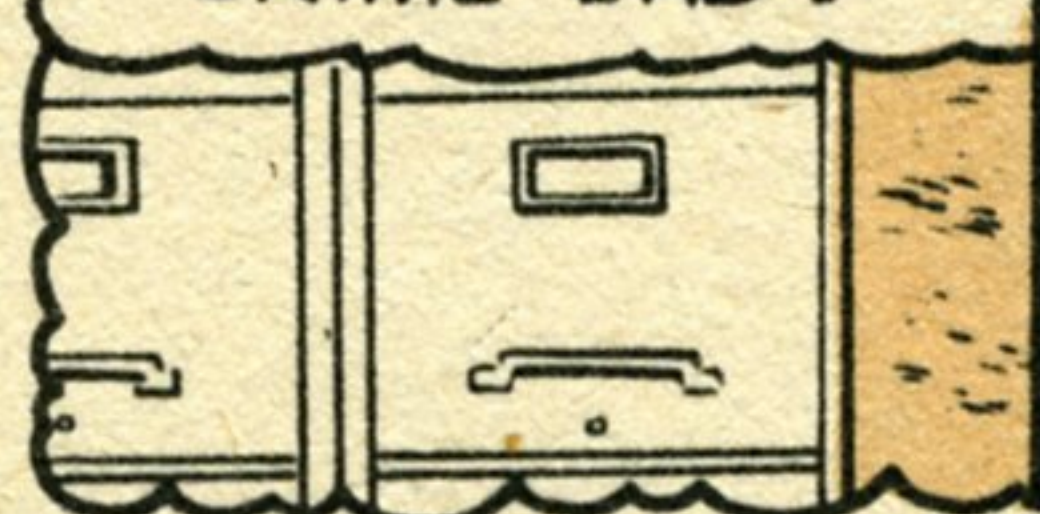
"MY ENTRANCE TO THE **BAT-CAVE** WAS SOON ESTABLISHED! A LONG FLIGHT OF STAIRS REACHED THROUGH A GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK IN MY STUDY!"

PERFECT! AND NOW TO EQUIP MY **BAT-CAVE** WITH ALL THE MODERN WEAPONS AGAINST CRIME.



"I ADOPTED YOU SOON AFTER, **ROBIN!** SURELY YOU REMEMBER THE DAY WE SET UP THE NEW CRIME LAB?"

THESE FILES WILL CONTAIN THE MOST COMPLETE DATA ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND PERSONALITIES EVER COMPILED BY ANY AGENCY!

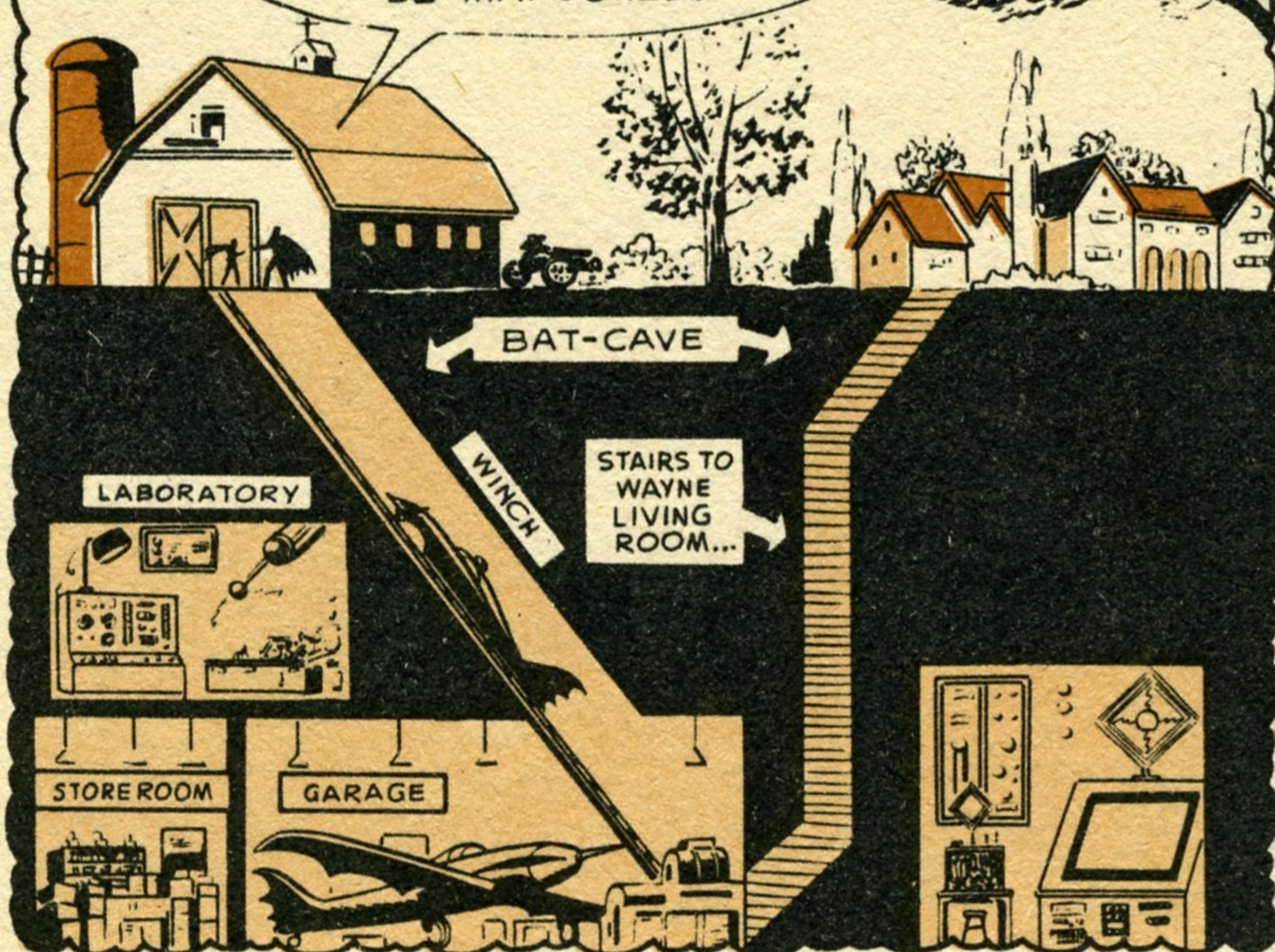


RIGHT, **ROBIN!** AND WHEN I GET THIS SPECTROSCOPE MACHINE SET UP, IT WILL ENABLE US TO IDENTIFY MINUTE PARTICLES BY THEIR COLOR-SPECTRUM BREAKDOWN!



"AND HOW ABOUT ALL THE WORK WE WENT THROUGH WHEN WE USED TO USE THE BARN AS AN EXIT FOR THE **BATPLANE** AND **BATMOBILE**?"

WE MUST REMEMBER TO KEEP THAT WINCH IN PERFECT RUNNING ORDER, **ROBIN!** WITHOUT IT, THE **BATPLANE** AND **BATMOBILE** WOULD BE MAROONED!



"OF COURSE, I DON'T THINK ANYTHING GAVE US A BIGGER KICK THAN TO WATCH THE HALL OF TROPHIES BEGIN TO CROWD UP WITH MEMENTOS OF THE CRIMES WE HAD SOLVED!"

EXIT ANOTHER CRIMINAL ADVENTURE -- ENTER ANOTHER EXHIBIT FOR OUR HALL OF TROPHIES!



"BUT WE HAD SOME KNOTTY PROBLEMS TO LICK, DIDN'T WE? FOR INSTANCE, THERE WAS THE **BAT-SIGNAL** — WHICH WE COULDN'T SEE FROM THE **BAT-CAVE**..."

THIS DOES IT! ANY TIME THE **BAT-SIGNAL** FLASHES ON OVER POLICE HEADQUARTERS, IT WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY SEND OUT A RADIO BEAM THAT WILL ILLUMINATE THIS RED BULB!

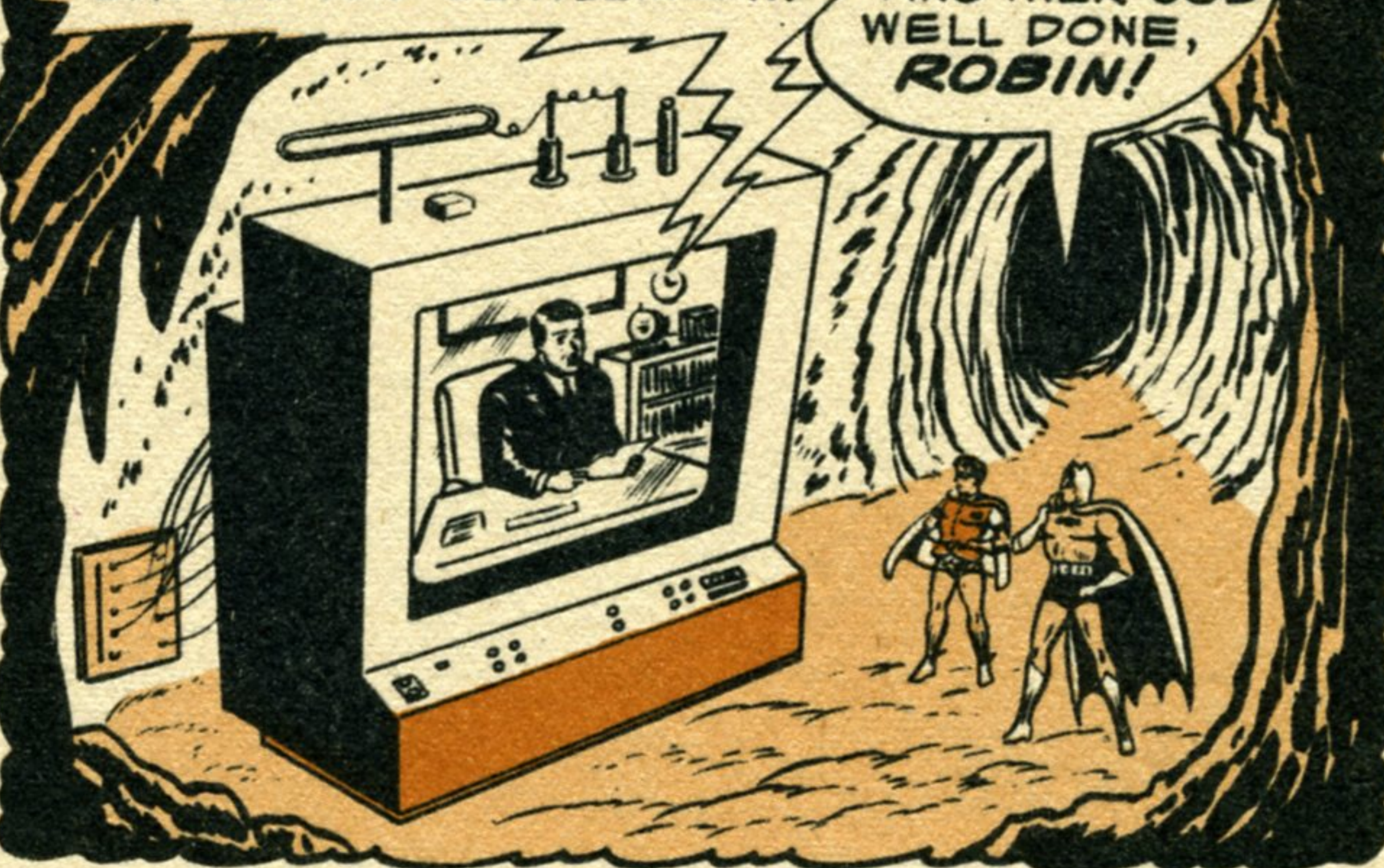
AND THAT WILL BE OUR CUE TO GET MOVING OVER TO COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE!



"REMEMBER HOW WE SOLVED THE TELEVISION PROBLEM? WE DEvised AN INTRICATE INDOOR ANTENNA WHICH WAS HOOKED UP IN RELAY TO THE INNOCENT-LOOKING ANTENNA ON BRUCE WAYNE'S ROOF!"

AND THAT'S THE NEWS FOR THIS EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

PERFECT RECEPTION! ANOTHER JOB WELL DONE, **ROBIN!**



AND AS THE MEMORIES FADE AWAY, AND WE RETURN TO THE PRESENT...

YES, **ROBIN**--THE **BAT-CAVE** HAS BECOME A LEGEND BY ITSELF. AND TOMORROW WE'LL LEARN MORE ABOUT IT WHEN WE HAVE THIS INSCRIPTION TRANSLATED...



NEXT MORNING, AS MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON, VISIT THE CURATOR OF A LARGE MUSEUM...

VERY INTERESTING, MR. WAYNE. YES, I AGREE WITH YOU-- IT IS ROUGHLY 300 YEARS OLD.

CAN YOU TRANSLATE THAT INSCRIPTION FOR US, SIR?



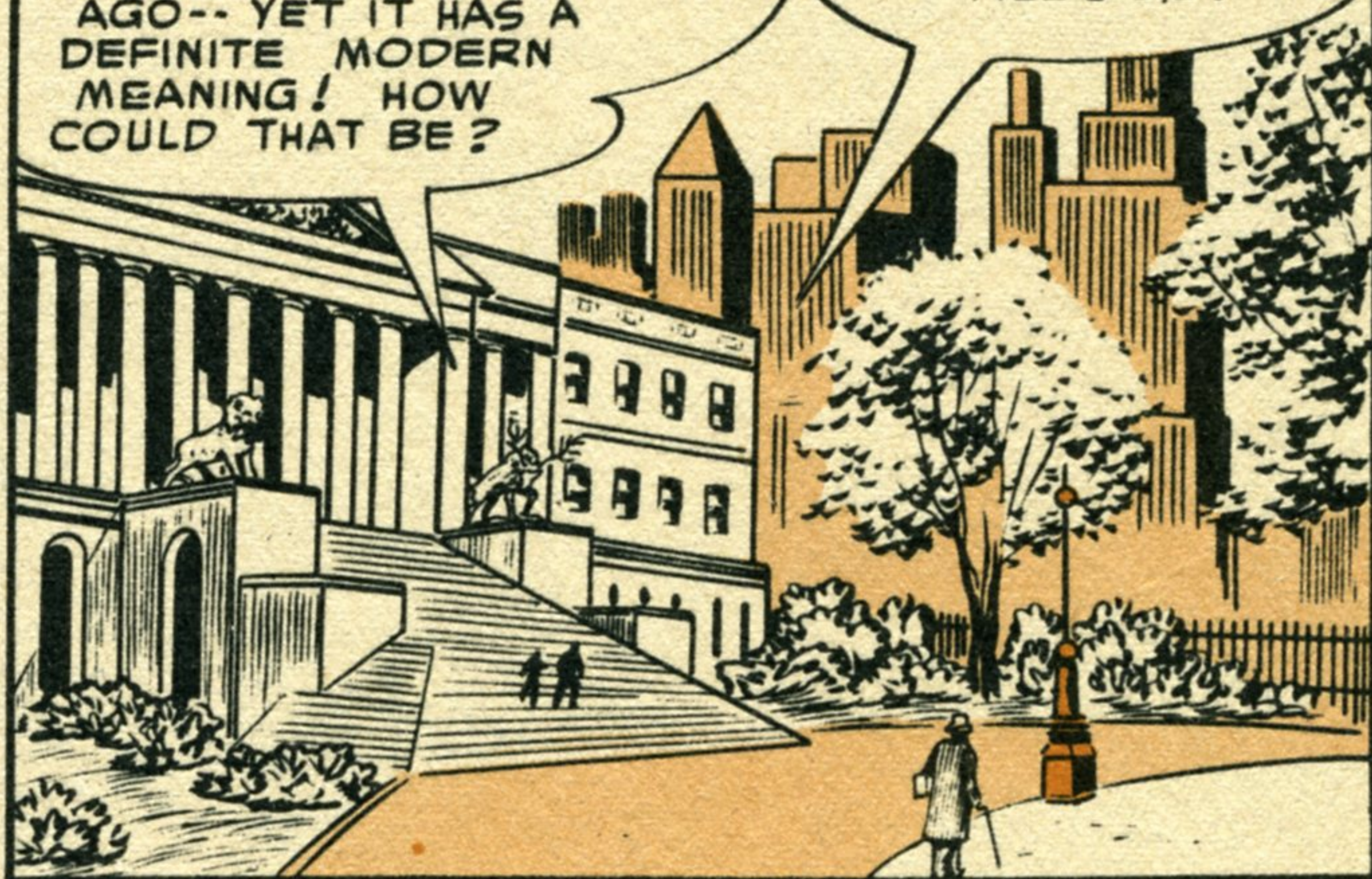
WELL, IT'S HARD TO BE EXACT! BUT, TRANSLATING IT FREELY, IT SAYS SOMETHING LIKE: "DEATH TO THE MAN OF TWO IDENTITIES!"

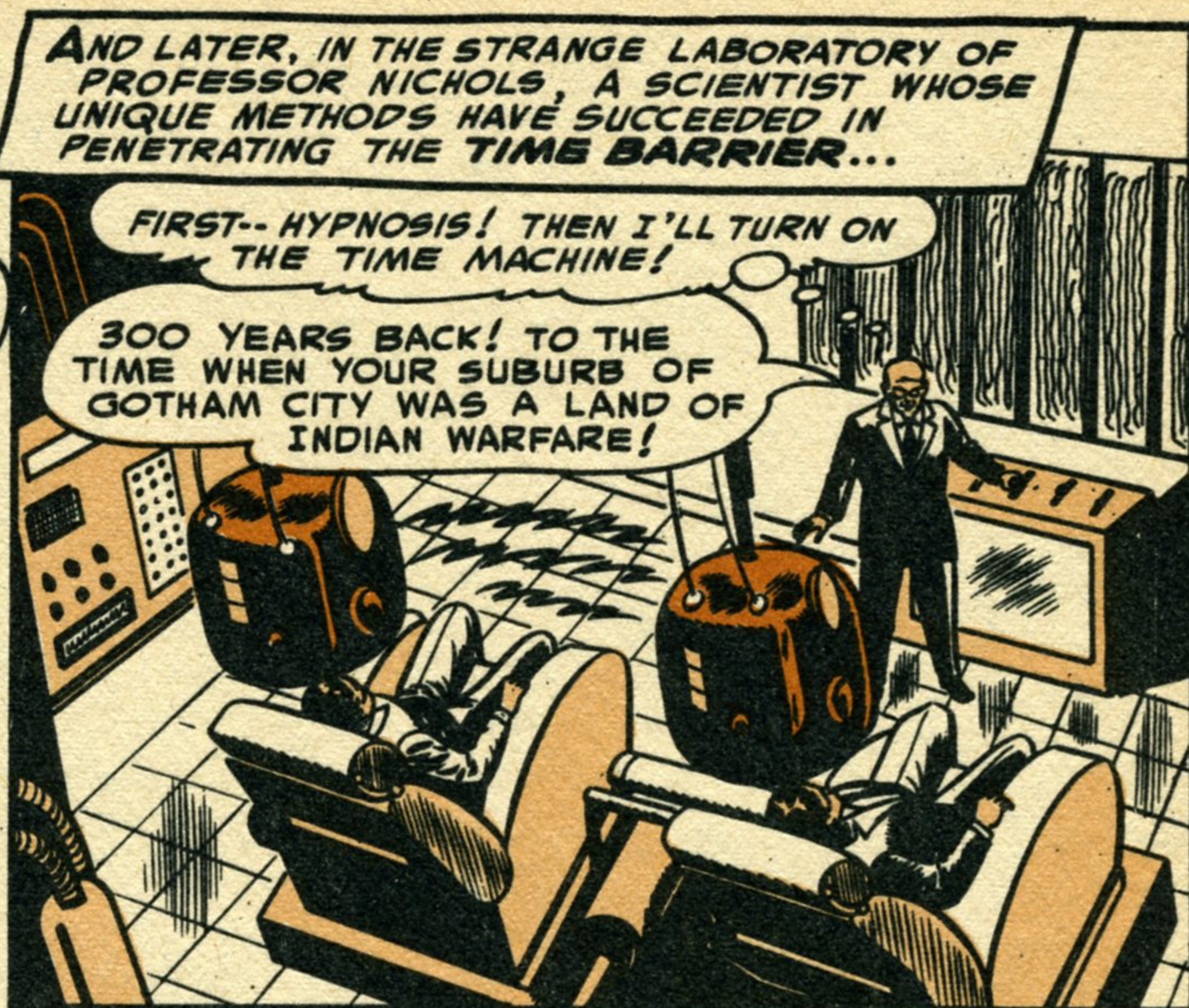


AND LATER...

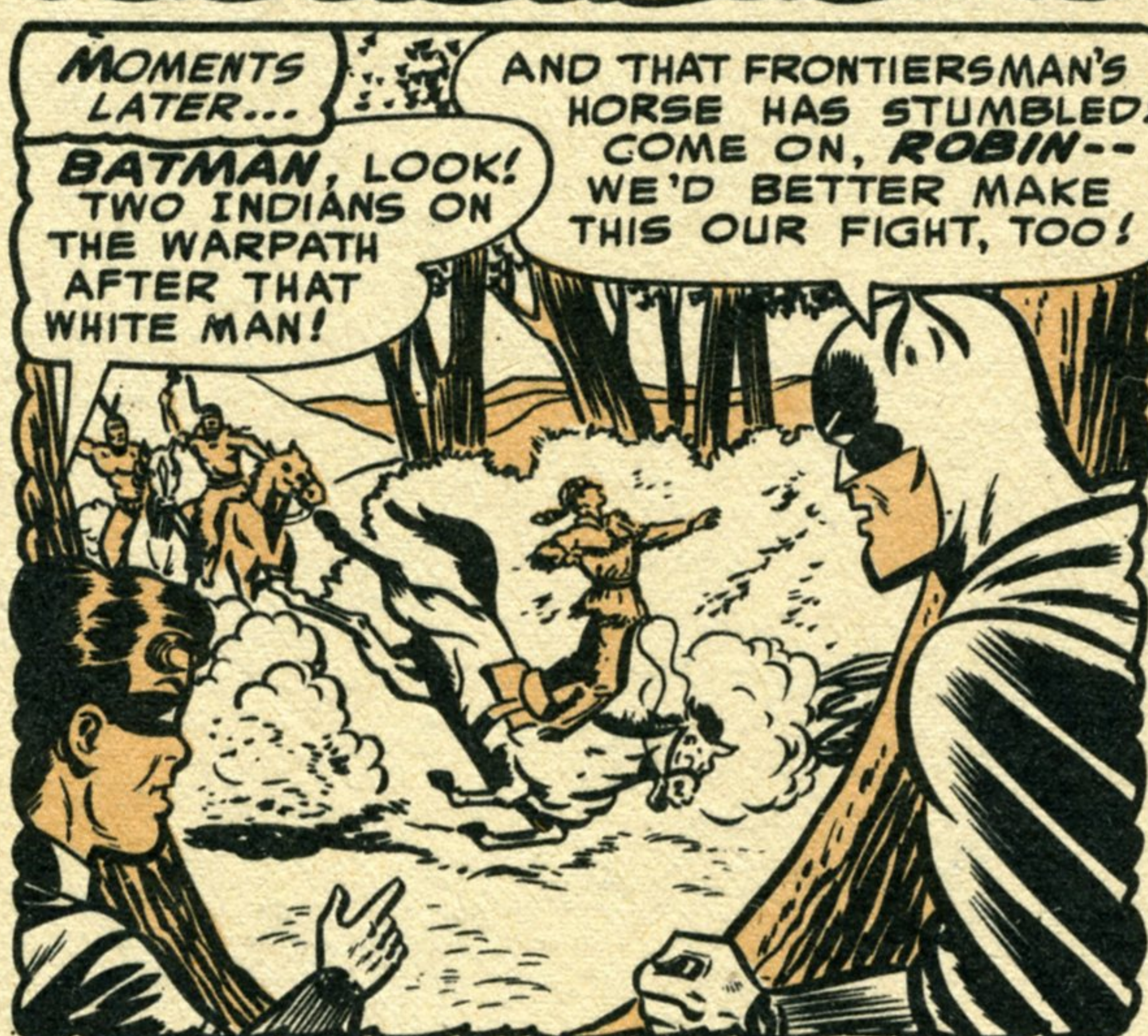
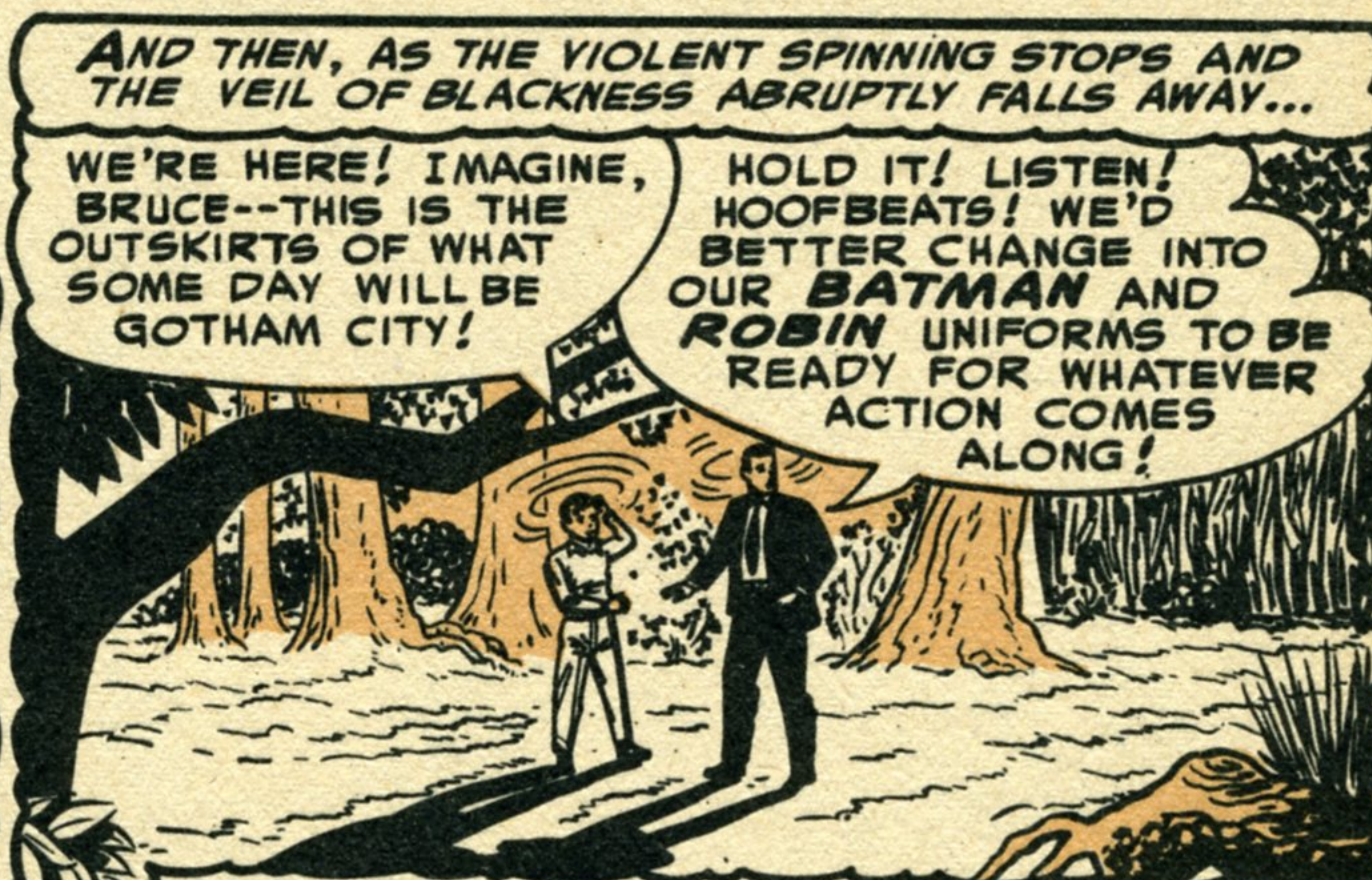
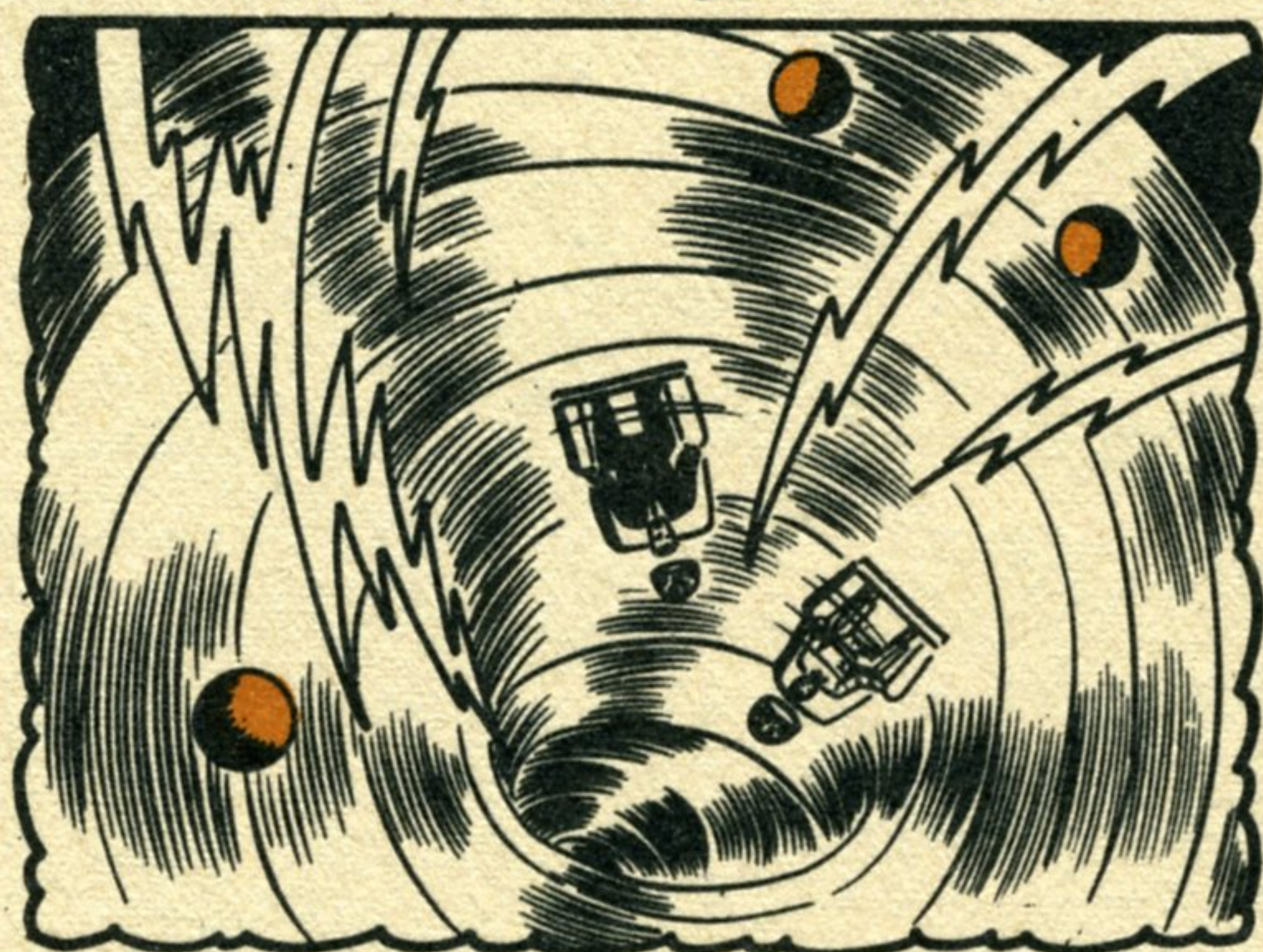
IT'S UNCANNY, BRUCE! THAT INSCRIPTION WAS WRITTEN THREE CENTURIES AGO-- YET IT HAS A DEFINITE MODERN MEANING! HOW COULD THAT BE?

I DON'T KNOW. BUT I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO FIND OUT! AND I WON'T BE HAPPY TILL I DO!





A WEIRD RINGING IN THEIR EARS-- THE SENSATION OF DROPPING OFF INTO A BOTTOMLESS ABYSS, BEING CAUGHT UP IN A GIANT WHIRLPOOL OF BLACKNESS-- AND THE LAWMEN BEGIN THEIR FANTASTIC TRIP BACK THROUGH THE CENTURIES!



AND AS A GRIM BATTLE ENSUES...

LET'S--GET--RID--OF--THAT--KNIFE!

AND LET'S GET RID OF THAT BOW-AND-ARROW!



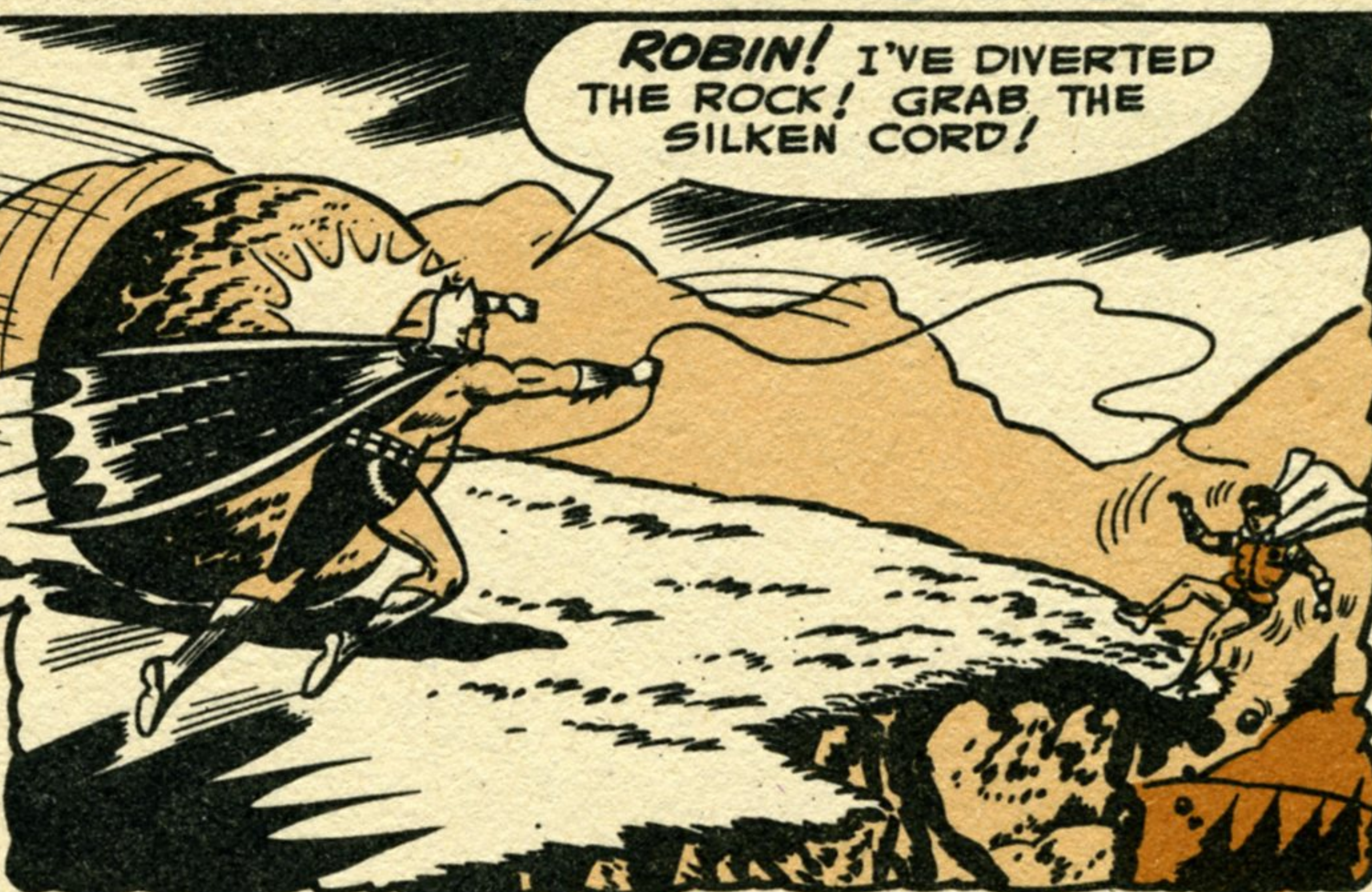
ROBIN'S IN TROUBLE! I'VE GOT TO GET THERE FAST!



THEN, AS THE GREAT BATMAN MOVES WITH BLINDING SPEED, FASTENING HIS SILKEN CORD AROUND HIS WAIST...



ROBIN! I'VE DIVERTED THE ROCK! GRAB THE SILKEN CORD!



AND MOMENTS LATER...

NICE TO SEE YOU, ROBIN! YOU'RE TOO LATE, THOUGH. LOOKS LIKE THIS FIGHT IS OVER!

IT'S JUST AS WELL! MY KNEES ARE STILL SHAKING!



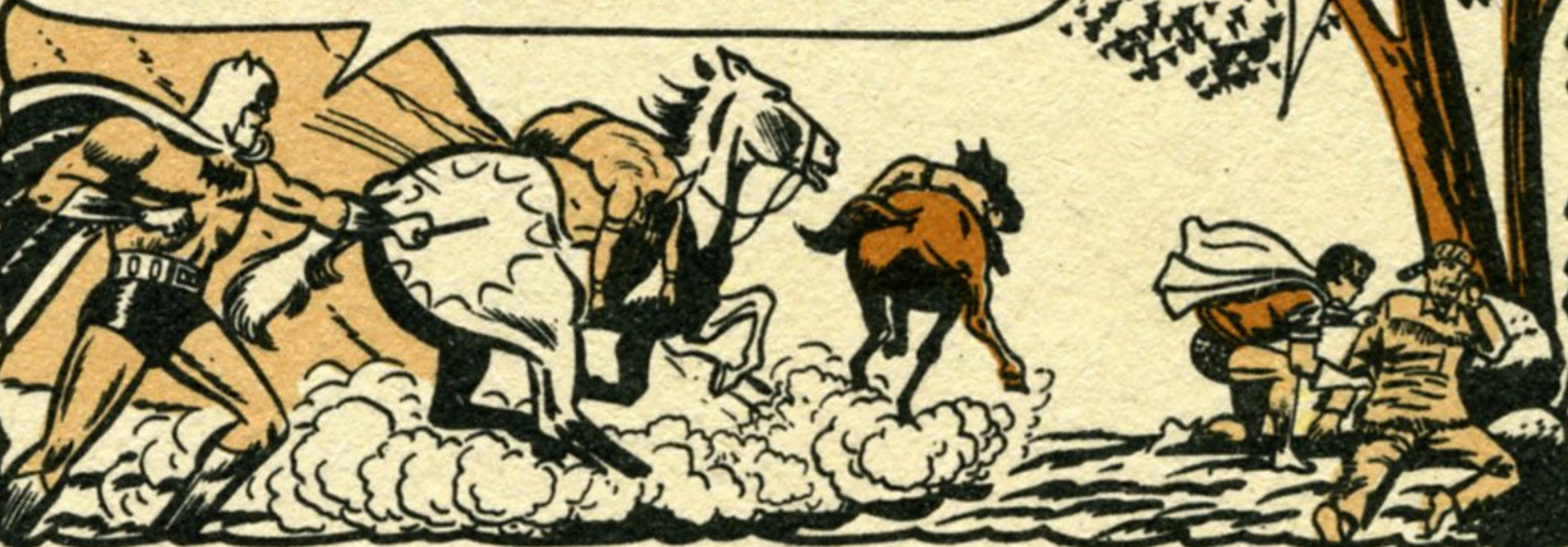
HOLD ON, BATMAN! I'LL BE UP IN A MINUTE!

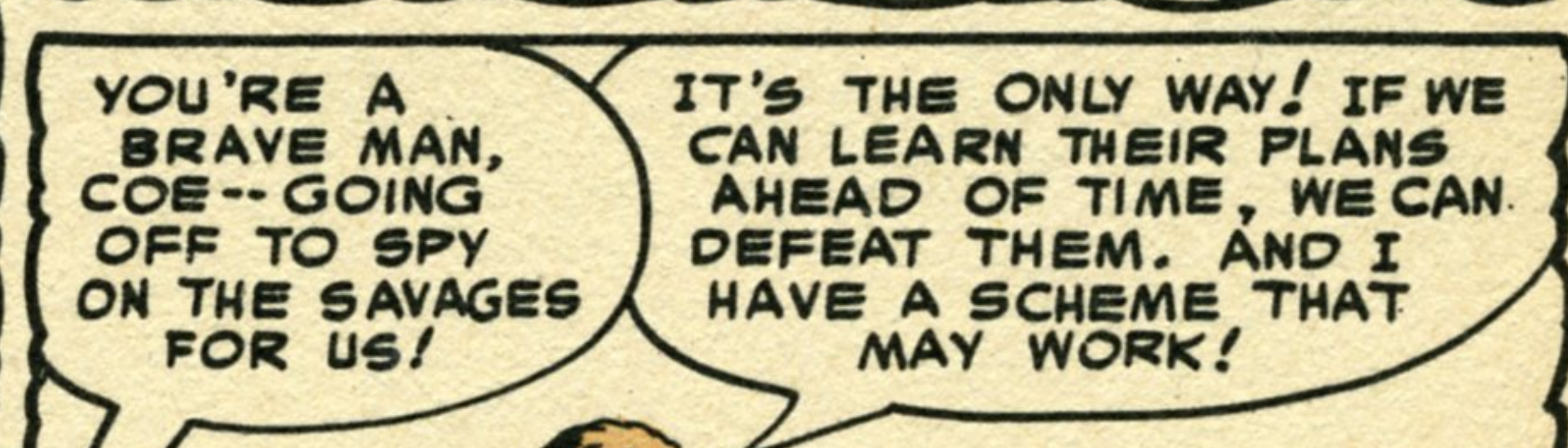
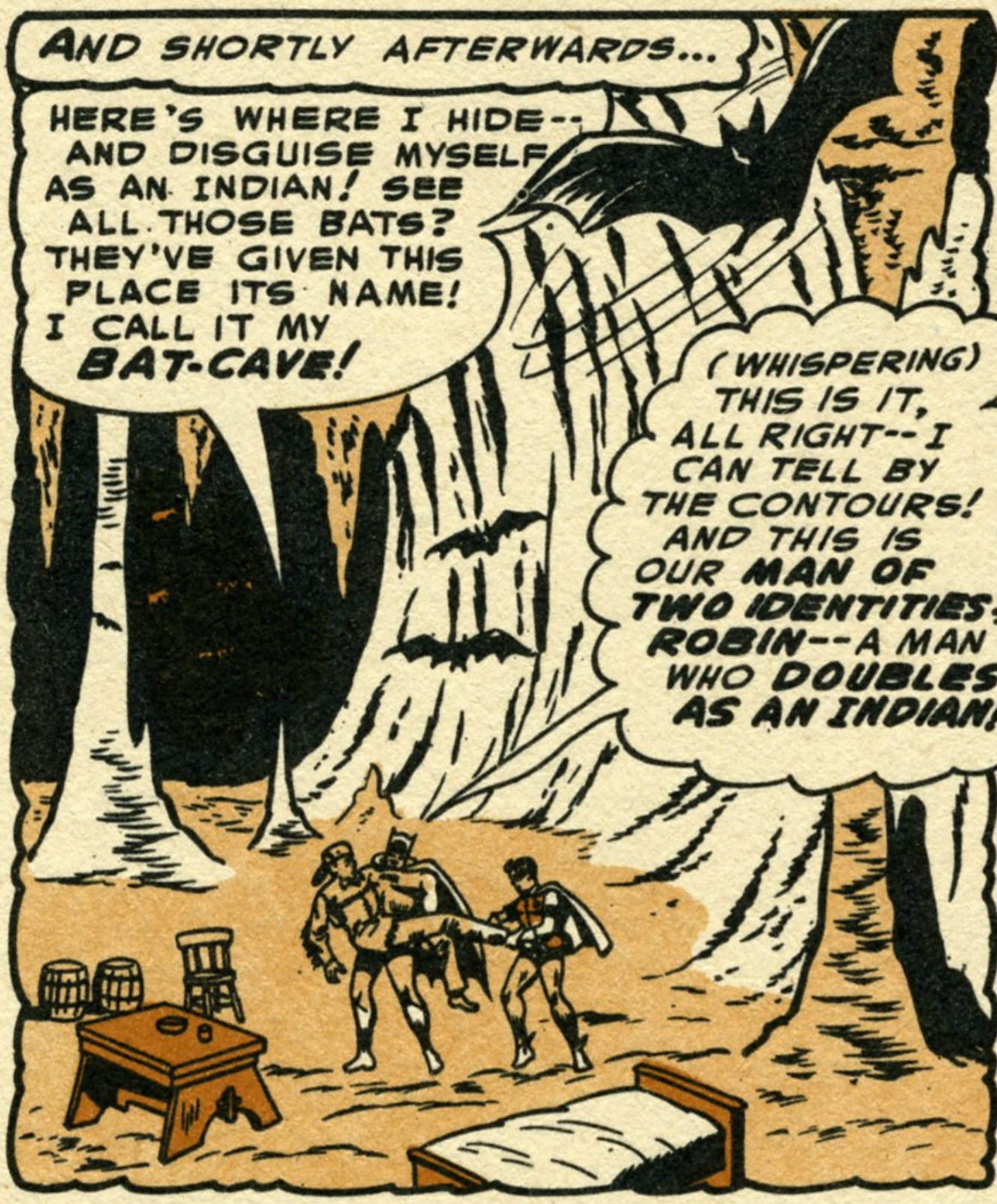


THEN, AS BATMAN PUTS THE UNCONSCIOUS INDIANS ON THEIR HORSES...

THESE HORSES WILL FIND THEIR WAY HOME! AND THOSE WARRIORS WILL PROBABLY BE OUTLAWED FROM THE TRIBE FOR DISGRACING IT!

BATMAN, COME HERE! HE'S STIRRING!





"MY IDEA WAS TO MINGLE WITH THE INDIANS AS ONE OF THEM, OPERATING FROM A BASE NEARBY. LUCKILY, I DISCOVERED MY BAT-CAVE-- IT WAS THE PERFECT SPOT..."



"I HAD NO TROUBLE MINGLING WITH THE INDIANS. IN A TIME OF UPRISING, MANY TRIBES ALLY AND MIX. NEW FACES ARE NOT UNCOMMON..."



"MY OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFUL. THE INDIAN ATTACKS WERE BEATEN OFF ONE BY ONE! BUT SOON THE OLD CHIEFS KNEW THERE MUST BE A SPY IN THEIR MIDST!"



I WASN'T CAUGHT, I MADE MY REPORT TO FORT GEORGE, THEN STARTED BACK HERE. UNLUCKILY, I RAN INTO THOSE INDIANS-- BUT I'M SURE THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHO I REALLY WAS...

YOU'D BETTER REST NOW. I'VE SET YOUR LEG IN A SPLINT. WE'LL SEE THAT YOU GET WHAT YOU NEED.



BUT NOW-- JUST WHEN MY ESPIONAGE IS NEEDED MOST-- I'M HELPLESS! THE INDIANS ARE PLANNING A MAJOR CAMPAIGN-- AND I'M UNABLE TO SPY ON THEM! AND THE FATE OF THE WHOLE COLONY IS IN THE BALANCE!

DON'T BE TOO DISCOURAGED! PERHAPS THERE'S A WAY. MAYBE I COULD TAKE OVER FOR YOU, AFTER I'VE CHANGED A FEW THINGS AROUND HERE...



I NOTICE YOU LEAVE YOUR HORSE UNATTENDED WHILE YOU'RE DOWN HERE-- WHISTLING FOR HIM, WHEN YOU COME UP. THAT'S BAD-- THE ANIMAL **COULD** LEAD THE INDIANS TO THIS CAVE. COME ON, **ROBIN**-- WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO-- IN THAT LOG CABIN I SPOTTED BEFORE!



SOON AFTER, IN THE ABANDONED LOG CABIN ABOVE THE BAT-CAVE...

A FEW OF THE CONCENTRATED EXPLOSIVE PILLS FROM MY UTILITY BELT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO BLOW A HOLE THROUGH TO THE BAT-CAVE...

AND WITH THIS VINE AND ALL THE TIMBER LYING AROUND, WE'LL RIG UP A REAL SURPRISE FOR JEREMY COE...



A FEW HOURS LATER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN COMPLETE THEIR LABORS...

SHADES OF THE WINCH IN THE REAL BAT-CAVE!

THERE YOU ARE, COE! YOU RIDE YOUR HORSE INTO THE CABIN, THEN YOU COME DOWN HERE, AND PULL YOUR HORSE DOWN AFTER YOU!

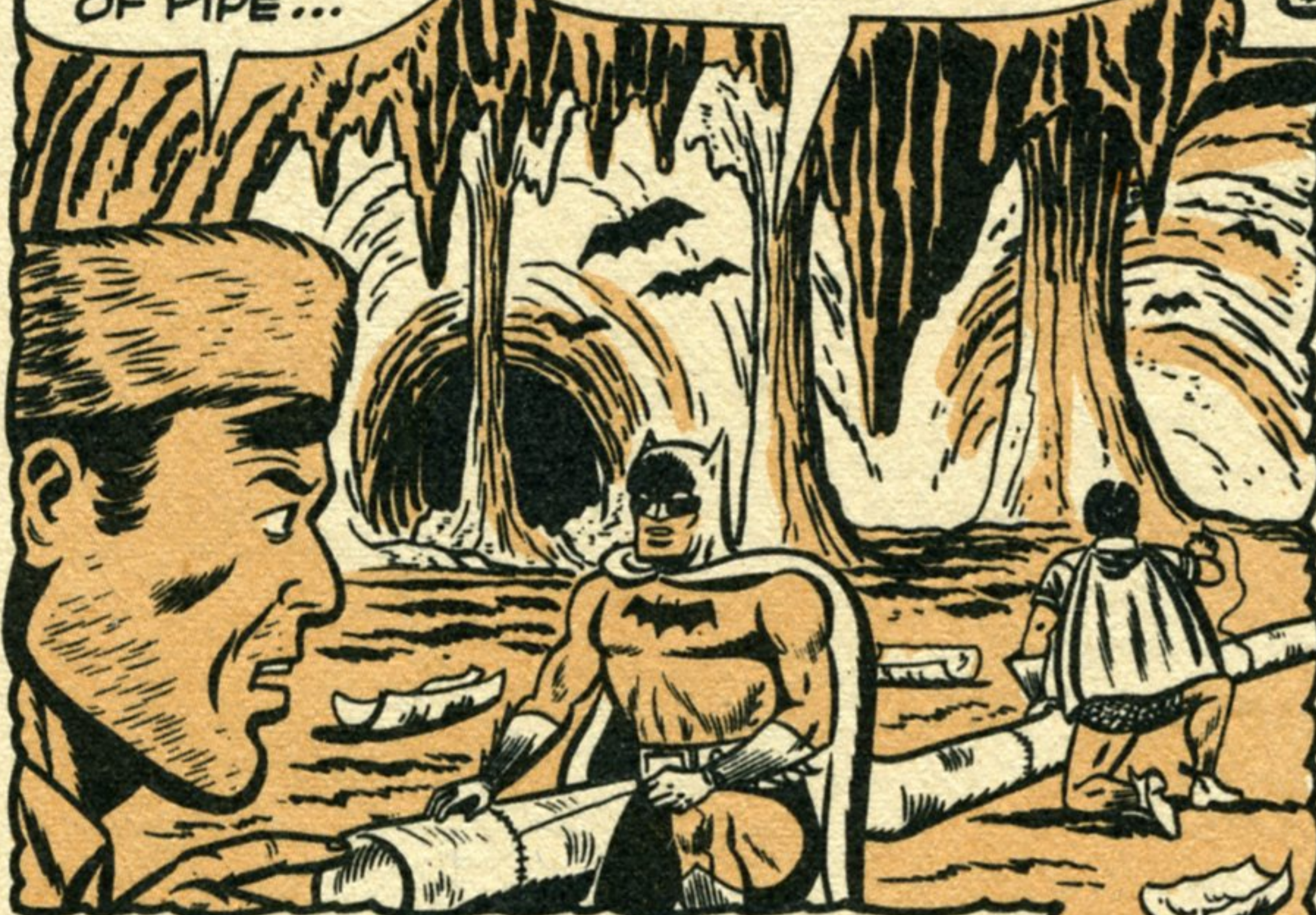
WELL, I SWAN!



SOON AFTER...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT BIRCH-BARK? LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF PIPE...

YOU'LL SEE! I NOTICE YOU HAVE SOME HAND-MIRRORS, THE KIND INDIANS USE TO FLASH SIGNALS WITH SUNLIGHT. ROBIN, WOULD YOU GO GET THEM...?



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...

IT'S CALLED A PERISCOPE, COE. BY RAISING IT THROUGH ITS OPENING IN THE CEILING, AND TWISTING IT AROUND, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE IN ALL DIRECTIONS, AND POSSIBLY SPOT AN ATTACK ON THIS CAVE!

NOT EXACTLY AN ELECTRONIC WARNING DEVICE, NOR TELEVISION, BUT THOSE THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN INVENTED YET!



AND AS BATMAN CONTINUES "REARRANGING" THE OLD BAT-CAVE...

YOU USE A DYE MADE FROM BARK TO COLOR YOUR SKIN, BUT THERE'S MUCH MORE YOU CAN DO. THESE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF BARK, LEAVES AND HERBS CAN PROVIDE MEDICINES, TANNING AGENTS, CHEMICALS-- A WHOLE VARIETY OF THINGS!

THE CRIME LAB-- FRONTIER STYLE!



THEN...

DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE A NICE IDEA TO START A TROPHY COLLECTION? HERE-- THE BOW-AND-ARROW USED BY THE INDIAN ROBIN WAS FIGHTING-- THAT'S A GOOD BEGINNING!

I WAS WONDERING IF BATMAN WOULD FORGET THE HALL OF TROPHIES! THAT'S A REAL UNUSUAL ARROW-HEAD-- IT WOULD GRACE ANY COLLECTION!



AND SOON AFTER...

YOU'VE SET UP THE **DISGUISE WARDROBE** JUST LIKE THE ONE IN THE MODERN **BAT-CAVE!**

YES! AND NOW TO PICK AN APPROPRIATE DISGUISE FOR MY ROLE AS AN **INDIAN SPY!**



QUICKLY, **BATMAN** TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO AN **INDIAN**-- NOT BOTHERING TO HIDE HIS TRUE FEATURES FROM COE SINCE THIS IS AN ADVENTURE IN THE PAST, AND THE **BATMAN** IDENTITY MEANS NOTHING...

YOU LOOK PERFECT! BUT-- TAKE IT EASY! THIS IS A DANGEROUS MISSION!

I'VE GOT MY **BATMAN** UNIFORM IN MY QUIVER, FOR EMERGENCIES. YOU STAY HERE-- TAKE CARE OF COE. I'LL TAKE THE SPARE HORSE, AND TROT TO THE REDSKIN CAMP, INDIAN-STYLE. IT WILL APPEAR I'VE COME A LONG WAY!



LATER AT THE INDIAN ENCAMPMENT, AS **BATMAN** IS ACCEPTED WITHOUT UNDUE SUSPICION...

AND SO IT IS THAT THE GREAT **BATMAN** BECOMES AN INDIAN OF THREE CENTURIES AGO!

I NEVER DREAMED I'D BE DOING THIS ONE DAY!



A WAR COUNCIL-- PLOTTING THE NEXT MOVE! THAT CURLING LINE LOOKS LIKE THE PAMARO RIVER--AND APPARENTLY THEY PLAN TO ATTACK AT THE RIVER JUNCTION! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH-- NOW TO SLIP AWAY!



BUT THEN, AN UNFORESEEN STROKE OF BAD LUCK! A SUDDEN, DRENCHING CLOUDBURST!

MY DISGUISE--WASHED AWAY! THEY'VE SPOTTED ME--THERE'S THE POTTERY WITH THE DEATH-THREAT FOR THE MAN OF TWO IDENTITIES! WELL--MY **BATMAN** IDENTITY IS MY ONLY CHANCE--I'LL TRY TO CONFUSE THEM!



LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING, THE BAT-INDIAN DARTS INTO A NEARBY GROVE--APPEARING A MOMENT LATER AS THE REAL **BATMAN**, AS THE BRIEF STORM BLOWS AWAY...

WHO ARE YOU, MAN-- WHO-LOOKS-LIKE-BAT?

GOOD! ONE OF THEM SPEAKS ENGLISH! I'LL TRY TO MAKE THEM THINK I'M SOME SORT OF SPECIAL MEDICINE MAN!



I'LL SHOW THEM **BATARANG** MAGIC FOR A WHILE, TO IMPRESS THEM! I'VE GOT TO STALL FOR TIME-- WHILE I CONTACT **ROBIN** VIA THE BELT-RADIO AND HAVE HIM COME GALLOPING IN TO RESCUE ME! IT'S A CINCH I CAN'T RUN FOR IT!



BUT MOMENTS LATER...

MY BELT-RADIO--**NOT WORKING!** THE RAIN WATER MUST HAVE GOTTEN TO IT! HMM! THESE SMOKE PELLETS WILL DIVERT THEM FOR NOW-- BUT HOW CAN I CONTACT **ROBIN**? IF I ONLY HAD THE **BAT-SIGNAL!**



THEN, AS A SUDDEN THOUGHT STRIKES THE CORNERED LAWMAN...

SIGNALS! OF COURSE! THE INDIAN KIND OF SIGNALS--**SMOKE-SIGNALS!** BUT HOW TO SIGNAL **ROBIN**?



THEN, BEFORE THE AWED EYES OF THE SUPERSTITIOUS SAVAGES...



LUCKY THIS SMOKE IS SO THICK, AND HOLDS THE SHAPE OF MY **BAT-LIKE CAPE!**

MAN-WHO-LOOKS-LIKE-BAT HAS POWERFUL MEDICINE! HE CALLS UPON GREAT SPIRITS!

???

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE **BAT-CAVE**...

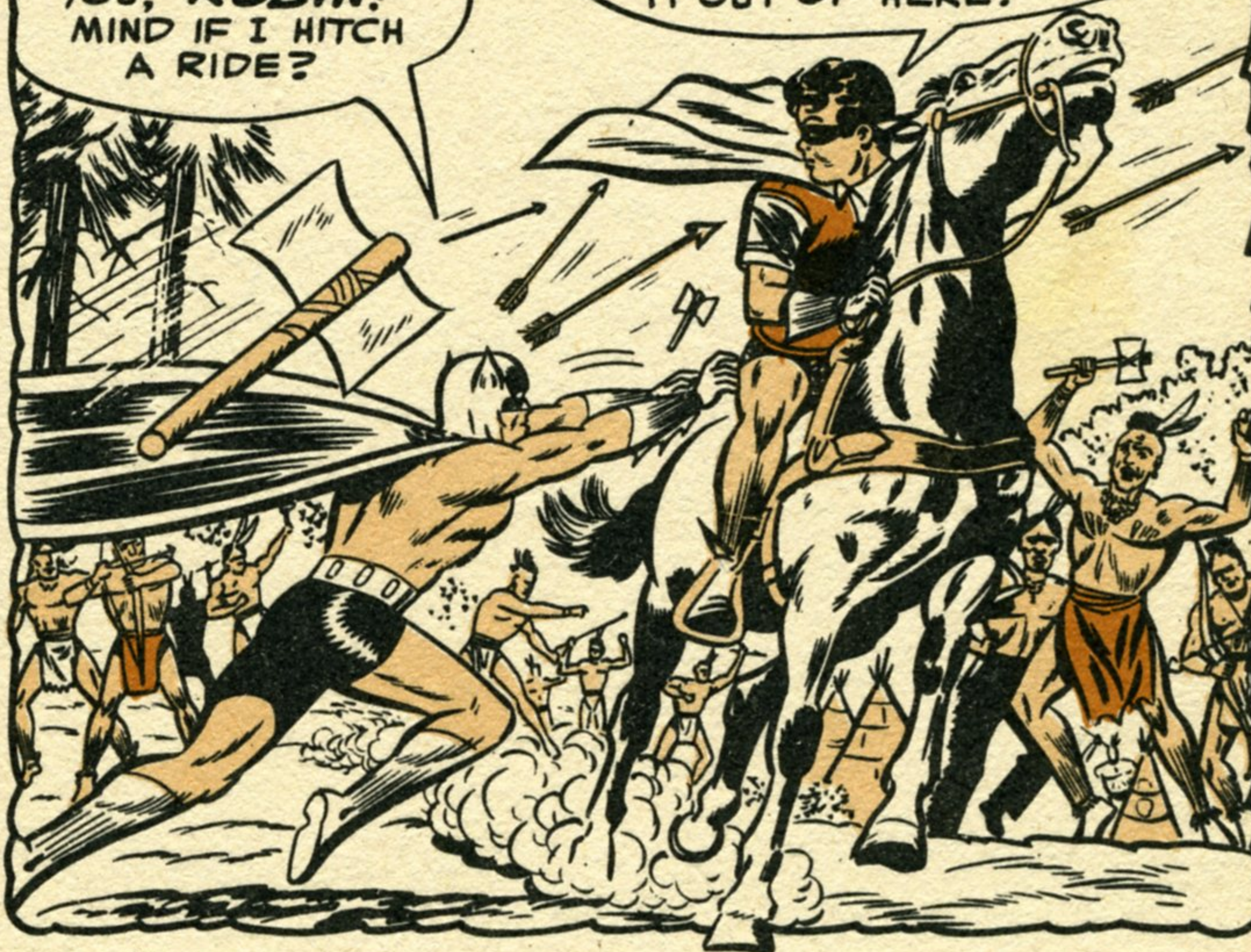
SMOKE-SIGNALS IN THE SHAPE OF **BATS!** THAT'S A 17th CENTURY **BAT-SIGNAL**, IF I EVER SAW ONE! I'VE GOT TO RUSH!

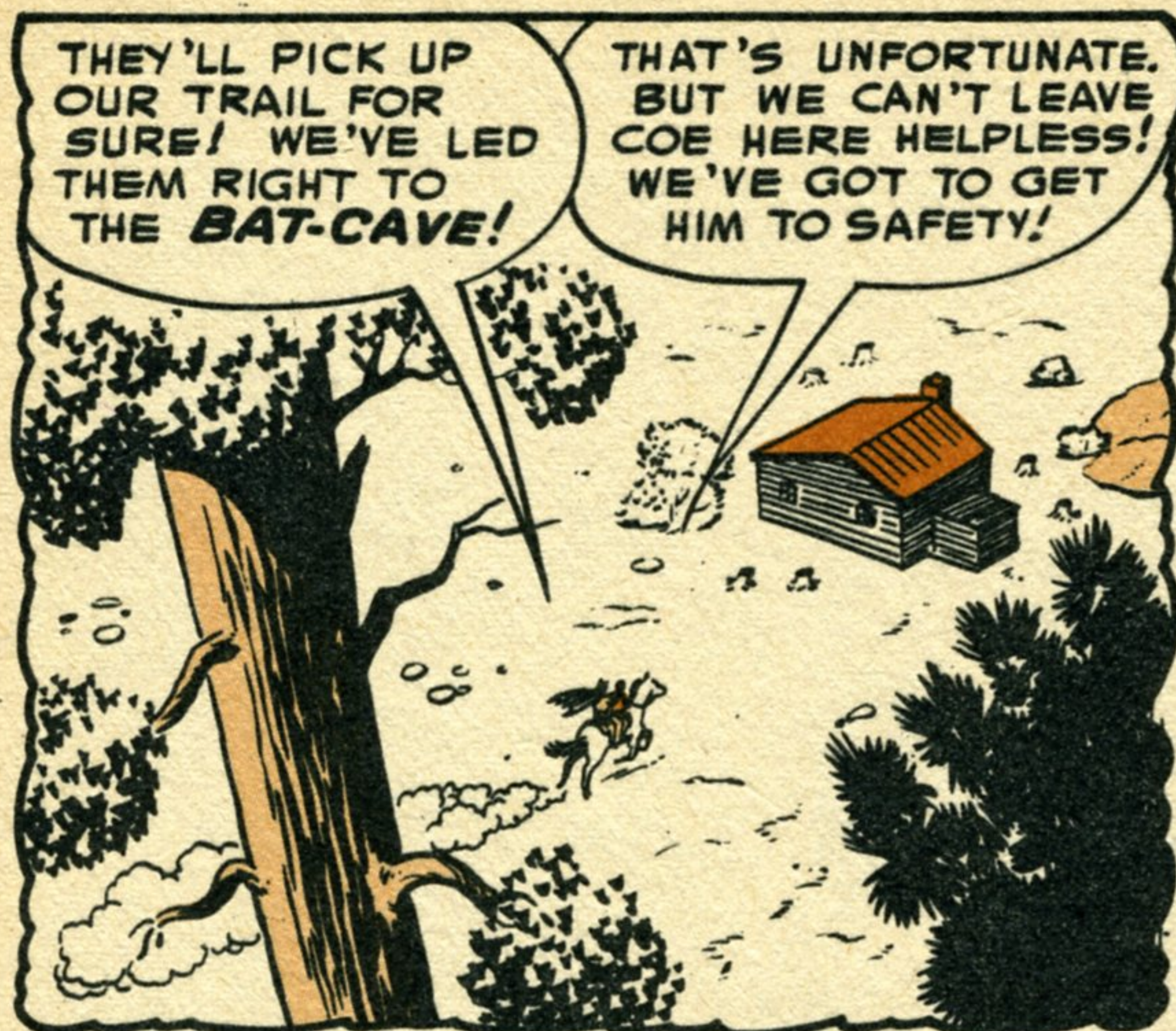


AND SOON AFTER...

GREAT TO SEE YOU, **ROBIN!** MIND IF I HITCH A RIDE?

NO, **SIR!** BUT IT LOOKS LIKE **THESE** CHAPS MIND! WE'D BETTER HIGH-TAIL IT OUT OF HERE!





THEY'LL PICK UP OUR TRAIL FOR SURE! WE'VE LED THEM RIGHT TO THE **BAT-CAVE!**

THAT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE COE HERE HELPLESS! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO SAFETY!

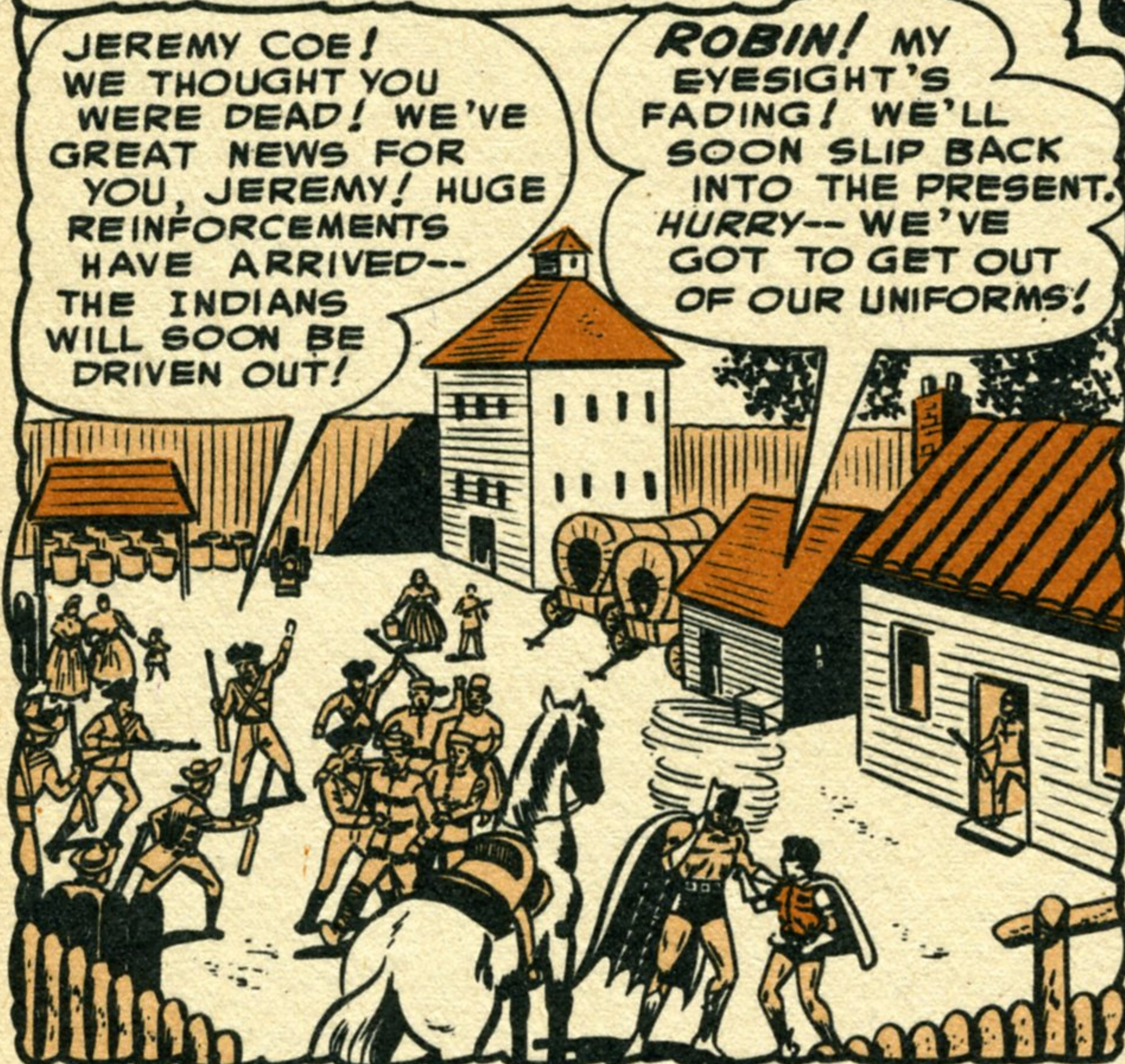


SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, AS THE LAWMEN BRING JEREMY COE OUT OF THE **BAT-CAVE** AND RUSH FOR FORT GEORGE...

THEY'VE REACHED IT! THEY'VE SET THE LOG CABIN ON FIRE!

NO MATTER! THE **BAT-CAVE** HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE FOR NOW!

AND AFTER A HARD JOURNEY...



JEREMY COE! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD! WE'VE GREAT NEWS FOR YOU, JEREMY! HUGE REINFORCEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED-- THE INDIANS WILL SOON BE DRIVEN OUT!

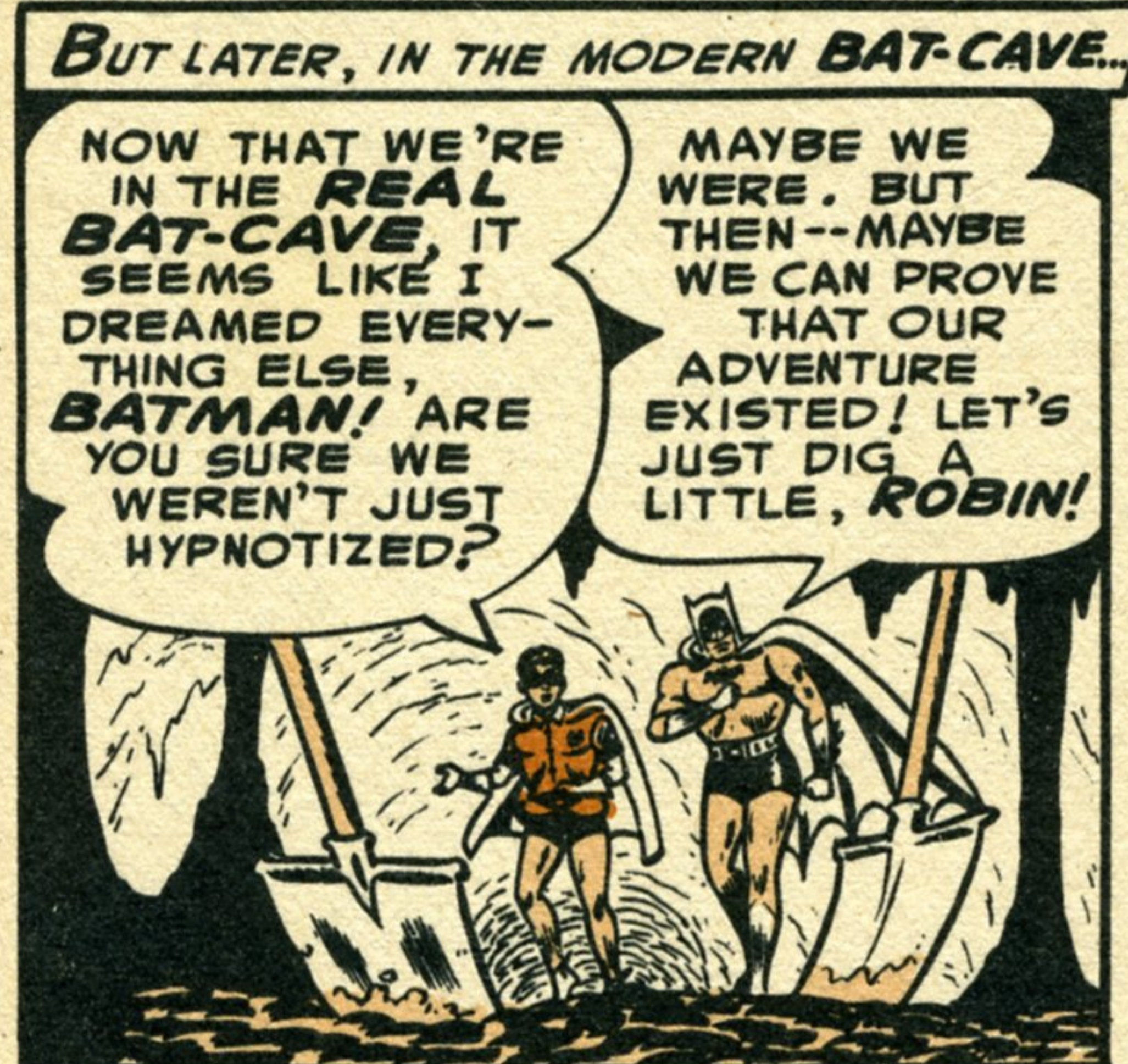
ROBIN! MY EYESIGHT'S FADING! WE'LL SOON SLIP BACK INTO THE PRESENT. HURRY-- WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF OUR UNIFORMS!

AND AS ASTONISHING AS IT BEGAN, SO DOES A REMARKABLE ADVENTURE INTO THE PAST COME TO ITS END!



THANK YOU, DOCTOR! OUR ARCHEOLOGICAL TRIP INTO THE PAST PROVED SUCCESSFUL. WE DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF OUR STRANGE PIECE OF POTTERY!

AND THEN, AS **BATMAN'S** SHOVEL STRIKES A METALLIC OBJECT...



BUT LATER, IN THE MODERN **BAT-CAVE**...

NOW THAT WE'RE IN THE **REAL BAT-CAVE**, IT SEEMS LIKE I DREAMED EVERYTHING ELSE, **BATMAN!** ARE YOU SURE WE WEREN'T JUST HYPNOTIZED?

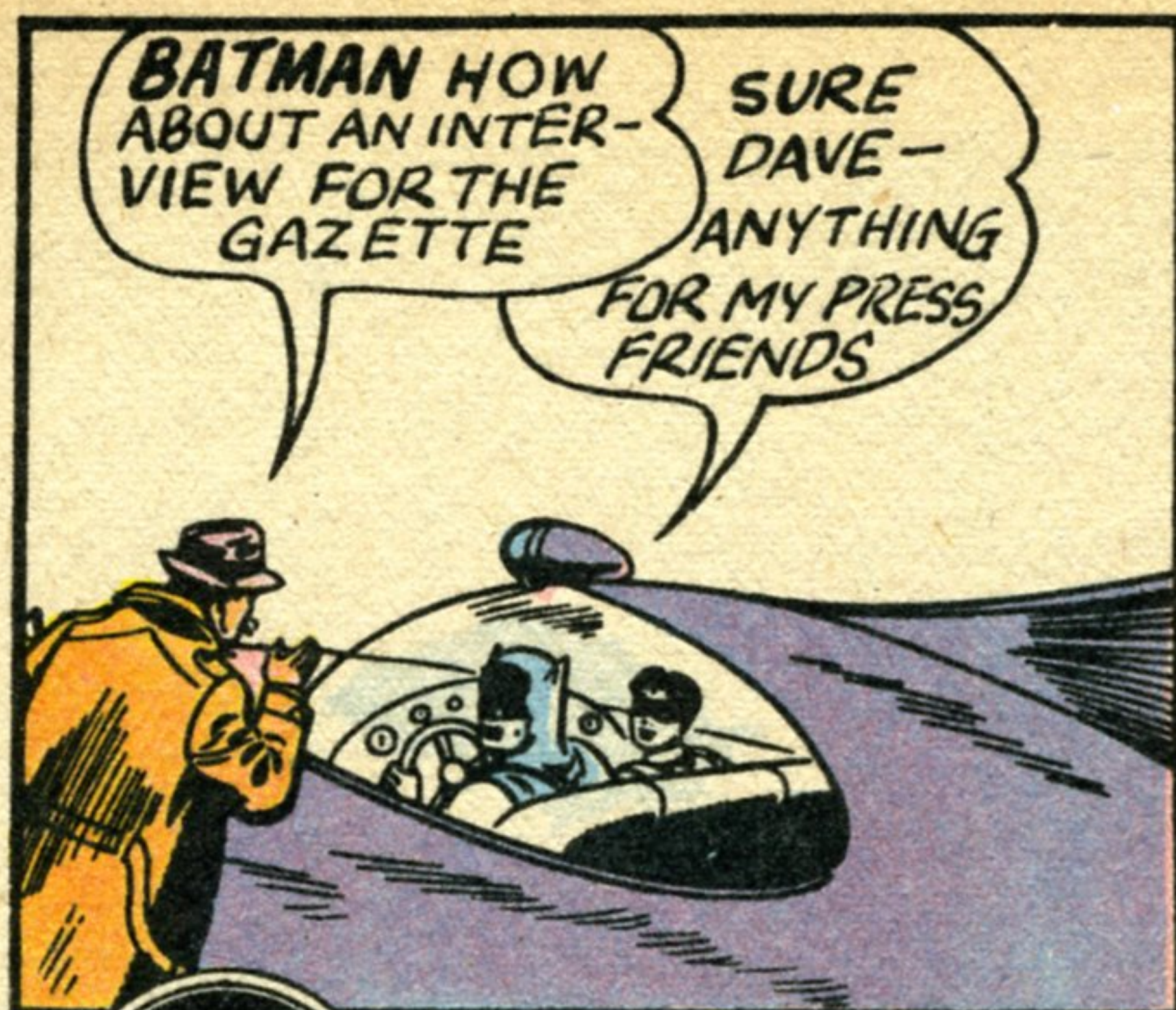
MAYBE WE WERE, BUT THEN--MAYBE WE CAN PROVE THAT OUR ADVENTURE EXISTED! LET'S JUST DIG A LITTLE, **ROBIN!**



WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THIS, **ROBIN?**

GOLLY! THAT STRANGE-LOOKING ARROWHEAD OF JEREMY COE'S HALL OF TROPHIES! I GUESS EVERYTHING REALLY HAPPENED, AFTER ALL!

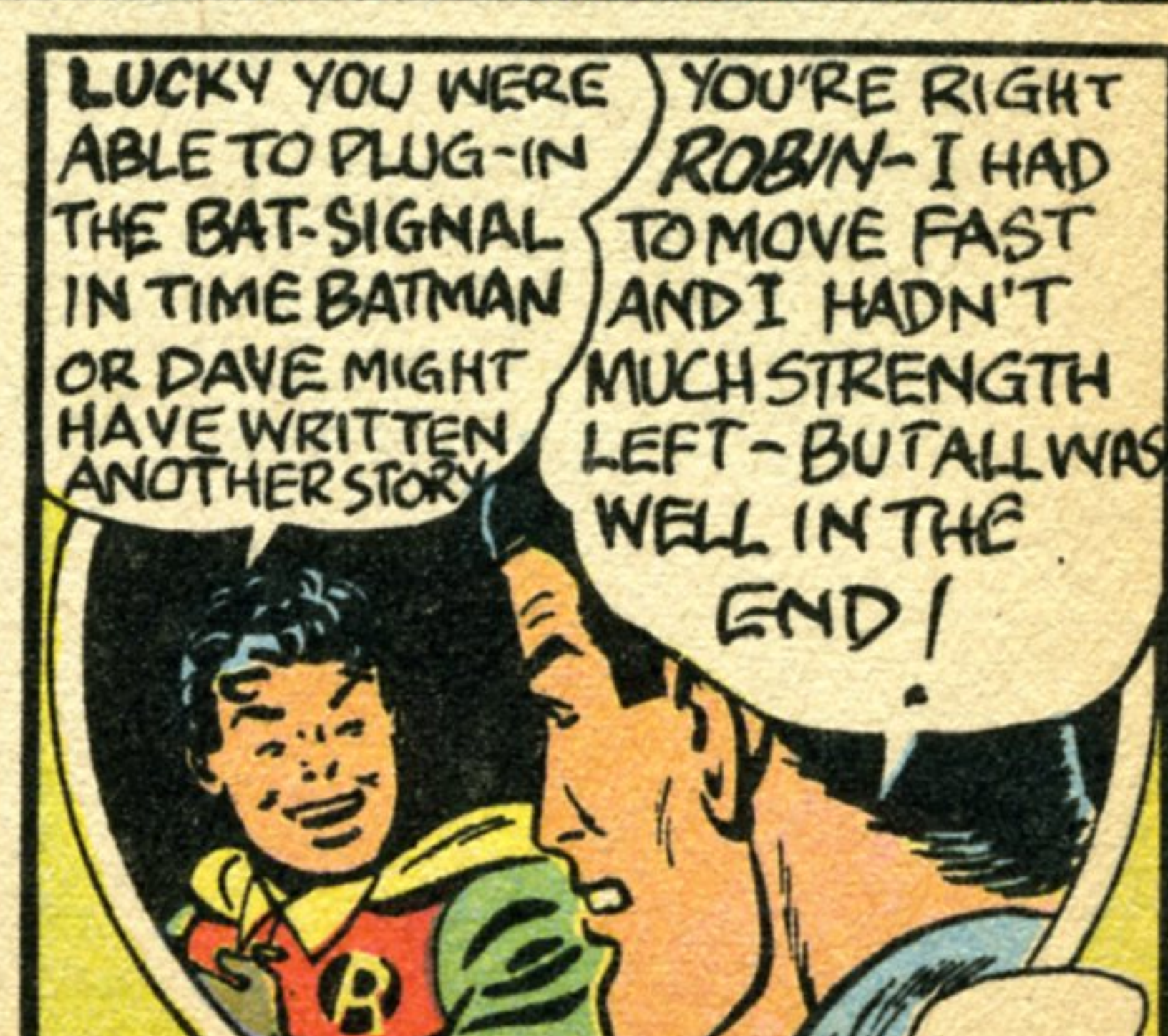
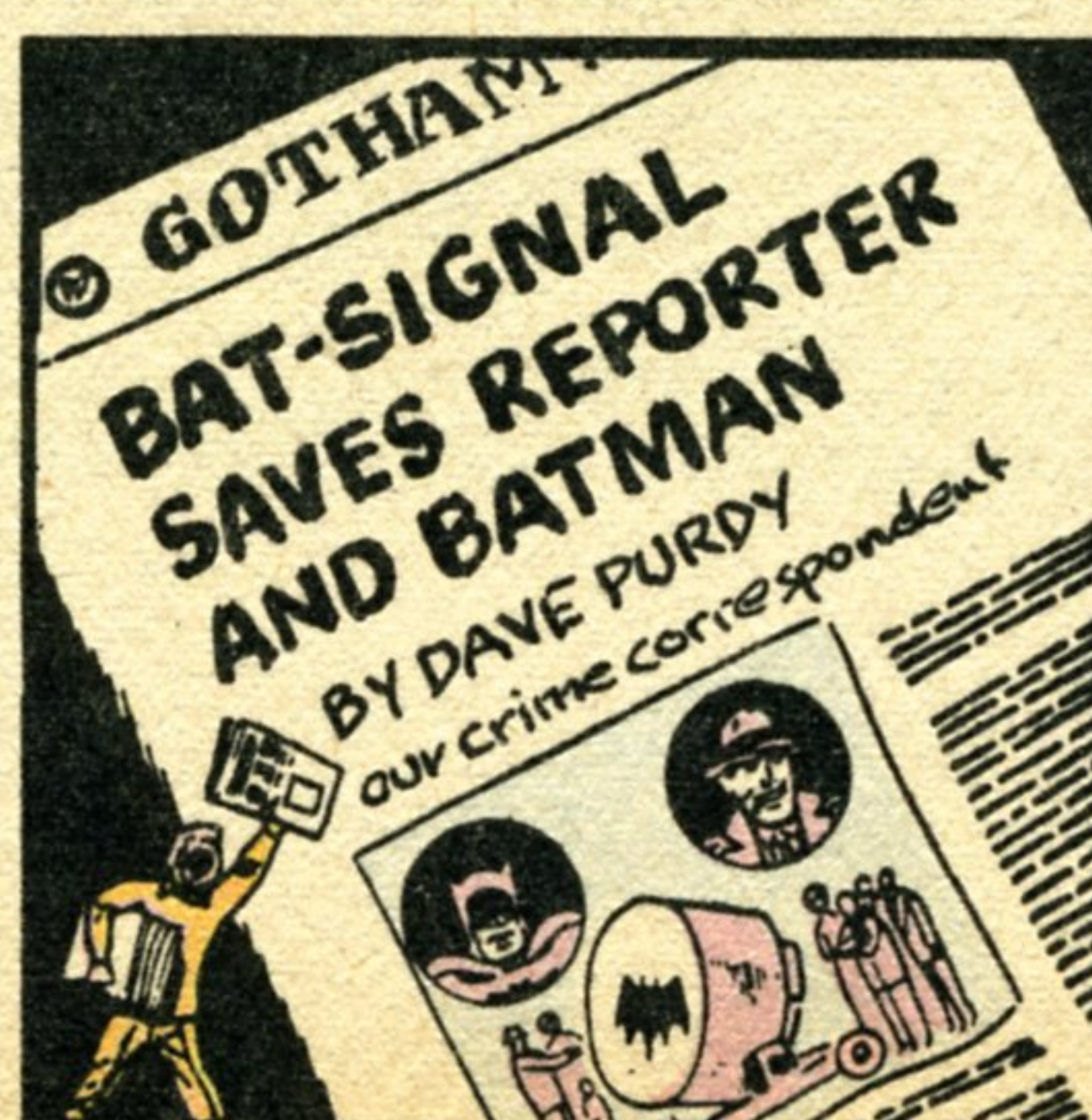
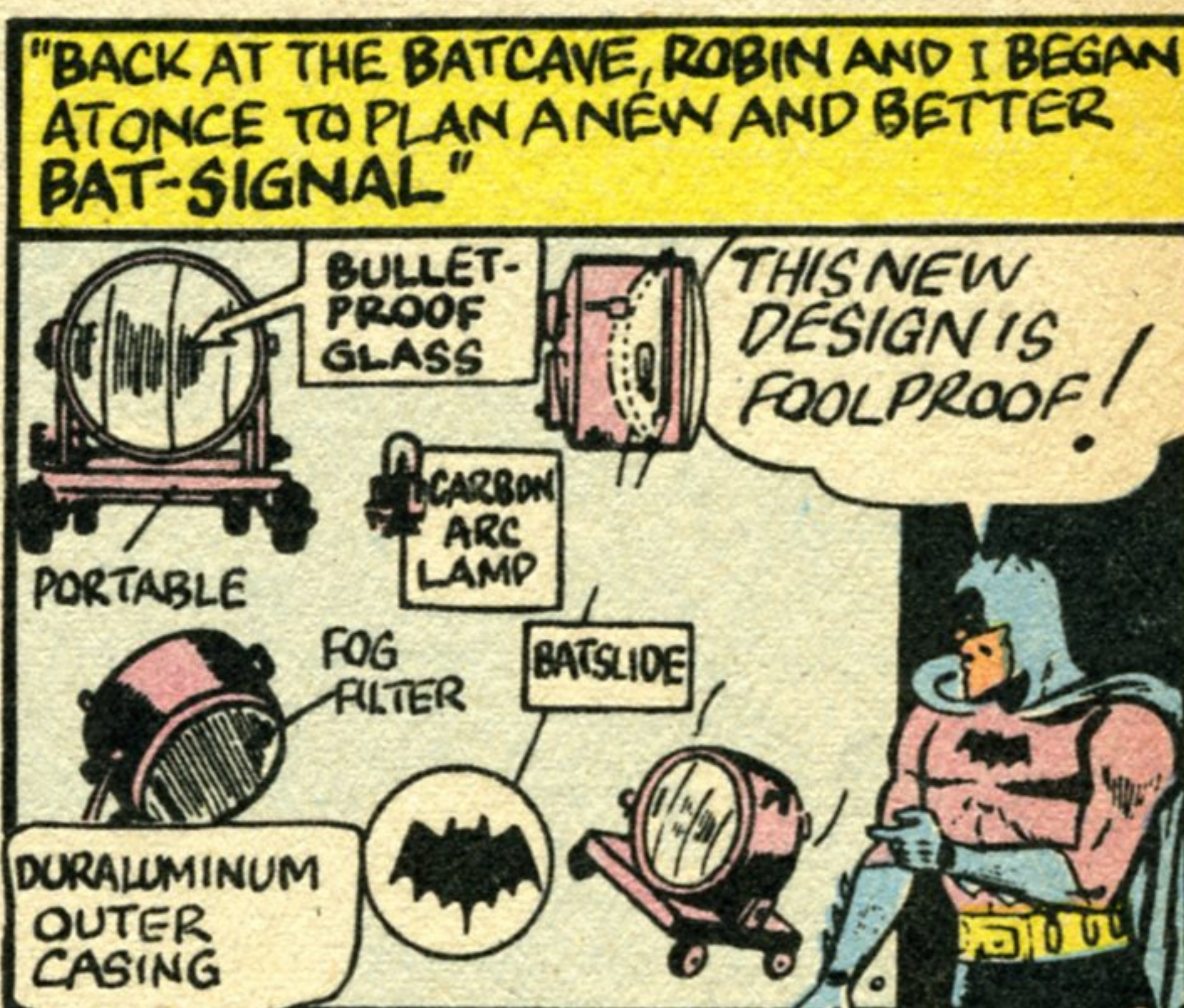
END



BATMAN AND ROBIN

TALES OF THE BAT-SIGNAL

DAVE PURDY—ACE REPORTER OF THE GOTHAM CITY GAZETTE, IS AFTER A STORY ABOUT THE BAT-SIGNAL AND ASKS BATMAN TO HELP!



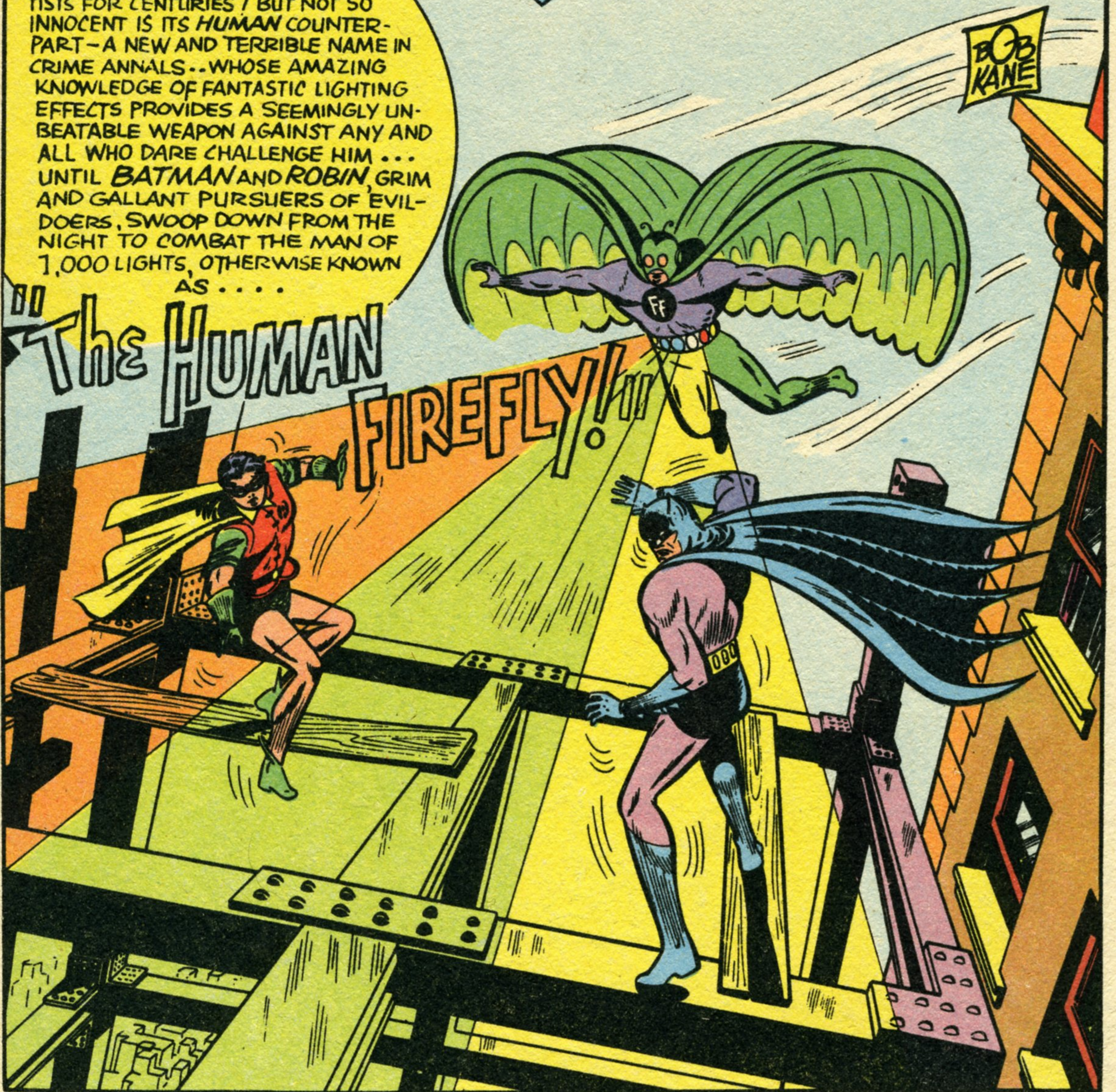
BATMAN

ROBIN

THE FIREFLY...

HARMLESS LITTLE CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, WHOSE PALE, COLD LIGHT HAS BAFFLED SCIENTISTS FOR CENTURIES / BUT NOT SO INNOCENT IS ITS *HUMAN* COUNTERPART - A NEW AND TERRIBLE NAME IN CRIME ANNALS... WHOSE AMAZING KNOWLEDGE OF FANTASTIC LIGHTING EFFECTS PROVIDES A SEEMINGLY UNBEATABLE WEAPON AGAINST ANY AND ALL WHO DARE CHALLENGE HIM... UNTIL *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*, GRIM AND GALLANT PURSUERS OF EVILDOERS, SWOOP DOWN FROM THE NIGHT TO COMBAT THE MAN OF 1,000 LIGHTS, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS....

"The HUMAN FIREFLY!"



A GREAT THROG GATHERS AT THE HUGE GOTHAM THEATRE TO SEE THE TOWN'S NEWEST MUSICAL SENSATION, "AQUA-MELODIES OF 1968!"



WELL! BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON!

GOOD EVENING, MR AND MRS CHADWYCKE!

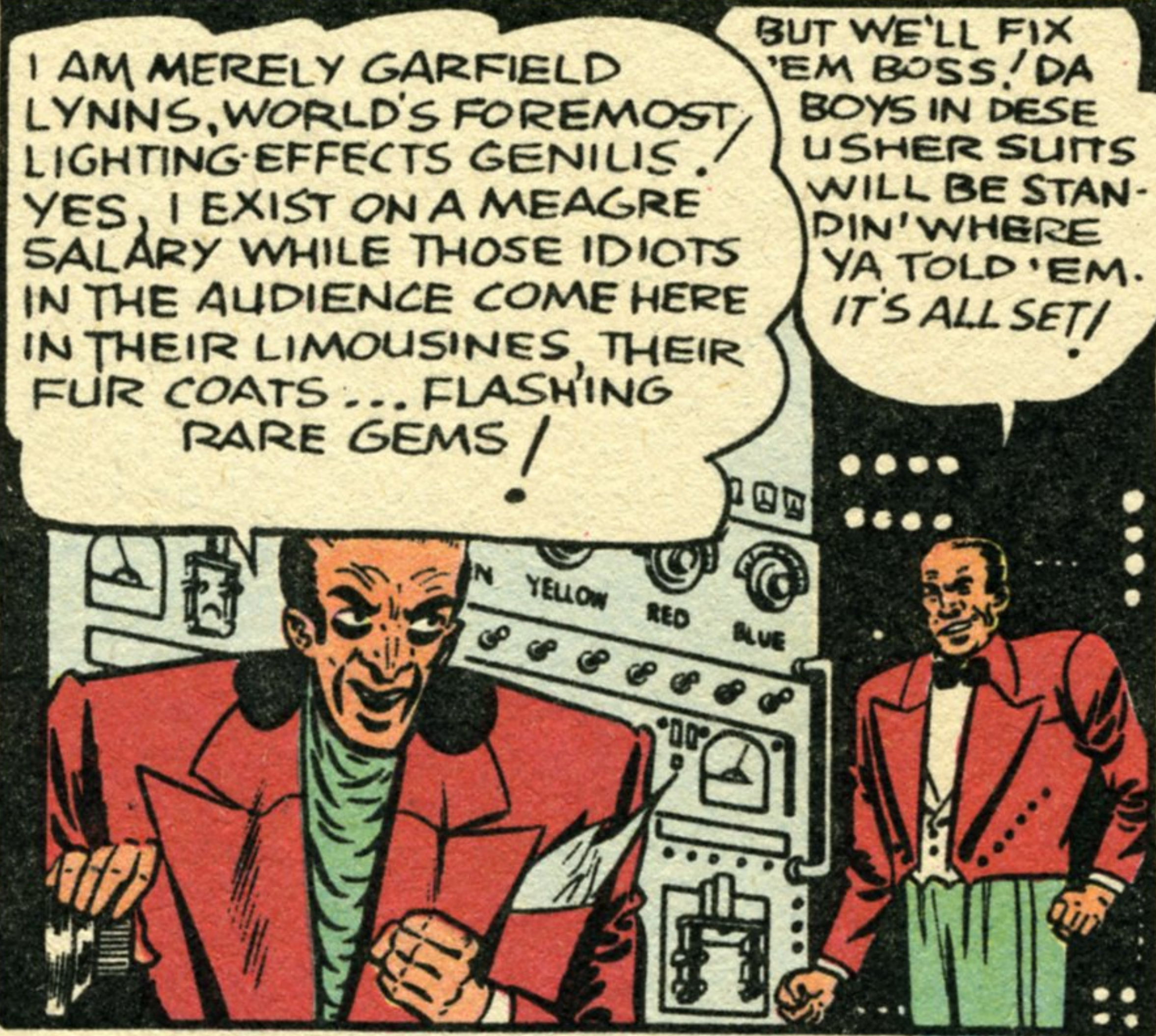
I THOUGHT NOTHING COULD LURE BRUCE AWAY FROM THE COMFORTABLE TOWN CLUBS, DICK-- BUT I GUESS A GOOD MUSICAL CAN DO THE TRICK!



"GOOD MUSICAL" HMM I'D RATHER HAVE SEEN A WESTERN MOVIE!

SOME GOOD FRIENDS GOT US THESE TICKETS DICK! AND BESIDES IT'S REALLY A GOOD SHOW! SHH... I THINK IT'S CURTAIN TIME.

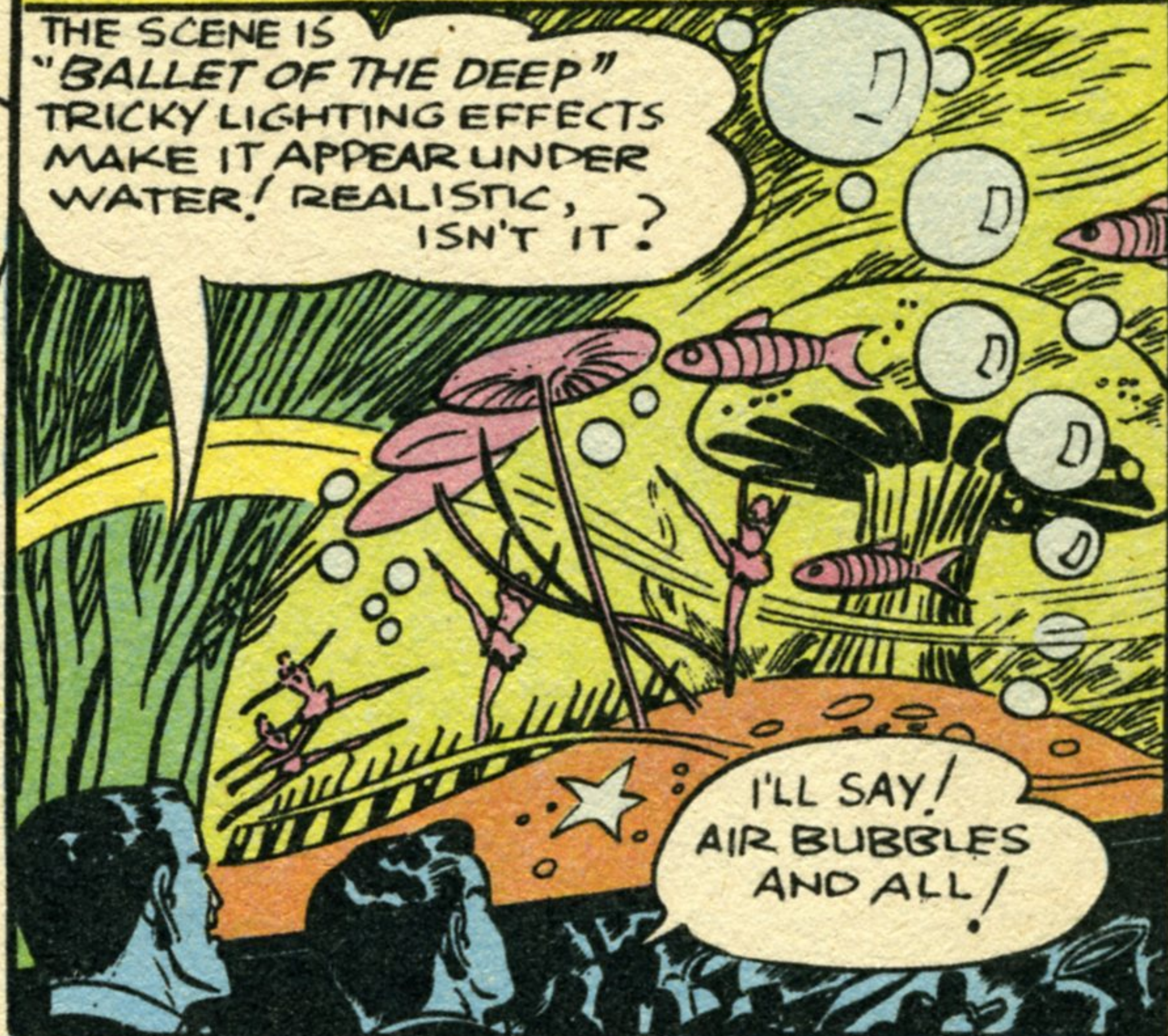
MEANWHILE, IN THE LIGHTING-EFFECTS CONTROL BOOTH, A SINISTER PLOT TAKES SHAPE...



I AM MERELY GARFIELD LYNNS, WORLD'S FOREMOST LIGHTING-EFFECTS GENIUS. YES, I EXIST ON A MEAGRE SALARY WHILE THOSE IDIOTS IN THE AUDIENCE COME HERE IN THEIR LIMOUSINES, THEIR FUR COATS... FLASHING RARE GEMS!

BUT WE'LL FIX 'EM BOSS! DA BOYS IN DESE USHER SUITS WILL BE STANDIN' WHERE YA TOLD 'EM. IT'S ALL SET!

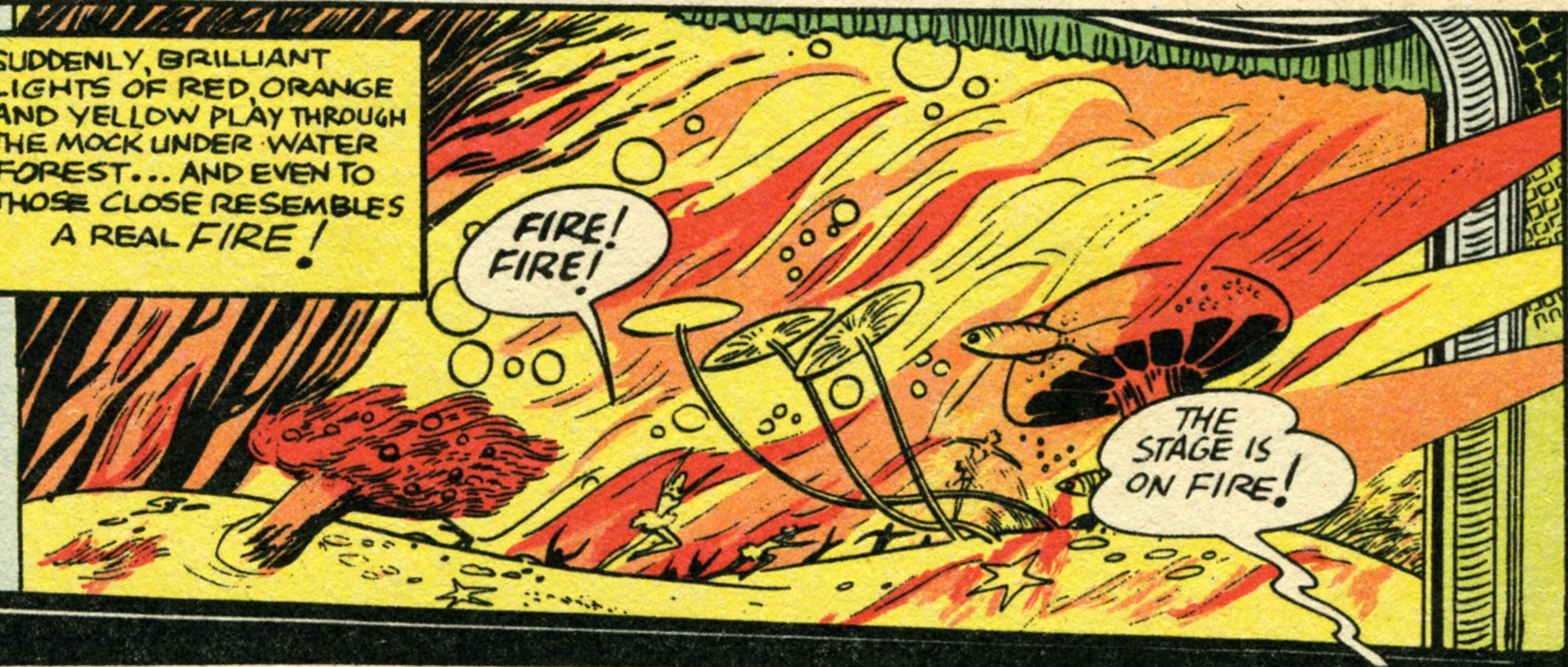
THEN, WITH A CRASH OF MUSIC, THE CURTAIN GOES UP ON "AQUA MELODIES OF 1968"



THE SCENE IS "BALLET OF THE DEEP" TRICKY LIGHTING EFFECTS MAKE IT APPEAR UNDER WATER! REALISTIC, ISN'T IT?

I'LL SAY! AIR BUBBLES AND ALL!

SUDDENLY, BRILLIANT LIGHTS OF RED, ORANGE AND YELLOW PLAY THROUGH THE MOCK UNDER-WATER FOREST... AND EVEN TO THOSE CLOSE RESEMBLES A REAL FIRE!



FIRE! FIRE!

THE STAGE IS ON FIRE!

THE PANIC SPREADS TO THE AUDIENCE . . .

THAT'S NO REAL "FIRE", DICK. NOTICE ... THERE'S NO SMOKE!

MAYBE BATMAN AND ROBIN CAN DO SOMETHING BEFORE THESE PEOPLE KILL EACH OTHER IN A STAMPEDE!

A SURREPTITIOUS CHANGE OF COSTUME, AND TWO WINGED-LIKE FIGURES SWING TOWARD THE STAGE, SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE FIERY GLOW . . .

PHONEY FIRE IS RIGHT, BATMAN! BUT ITS AMAZING HOW THOSE MOVING LIGHTS MAKE IT APPEAR REAL ... EVEN UP THIS CLOSE!

THERE'S A MICROPHONE IN THE WINGS/ GET IT ON-STAGE FAST!

ABOVE THE DIN AND CLAMOR, BATMAN'S VOICE RINGS OUT, MOMENTARILY QUIETING THE FRANTIC CROWD

ATTENTION! THERE'S NO FIRE! IT'S ONLY TRICK LIGHTING! SEE? IT HAS NO EFFECT ON US!

BATMAN'S RIGHT! IT'S NOT A REAL FIRE! IT'S A TRICK!

BUT THEN, A NEW TYPE OF PANIC STRIKES!

MY JEWELS! EEEEEK! THEY'RE GONE!

COME ON, ROBIN! THAT'S THE REASON FOR THE FAKE FIRE ... IT WAS A CAMOUFLAGE TO COVER UP ROBBERIES OF THE AUDIENCE!

MINE TOO!

AND MY PURSE IS MISSING!

RUNNING TOWARD THE MAIN EXIT, THE DARING DUO THWARTS THE CRIMINALS' ESCAPE . . .

USHERS! USHERING OUT THE STOLEN LOOT!

I RECOGNIZE LINKY THOMAS - FORMER "USHER" IN THE BIG HOUSE! GOING SOMEWHERE, LINKY?

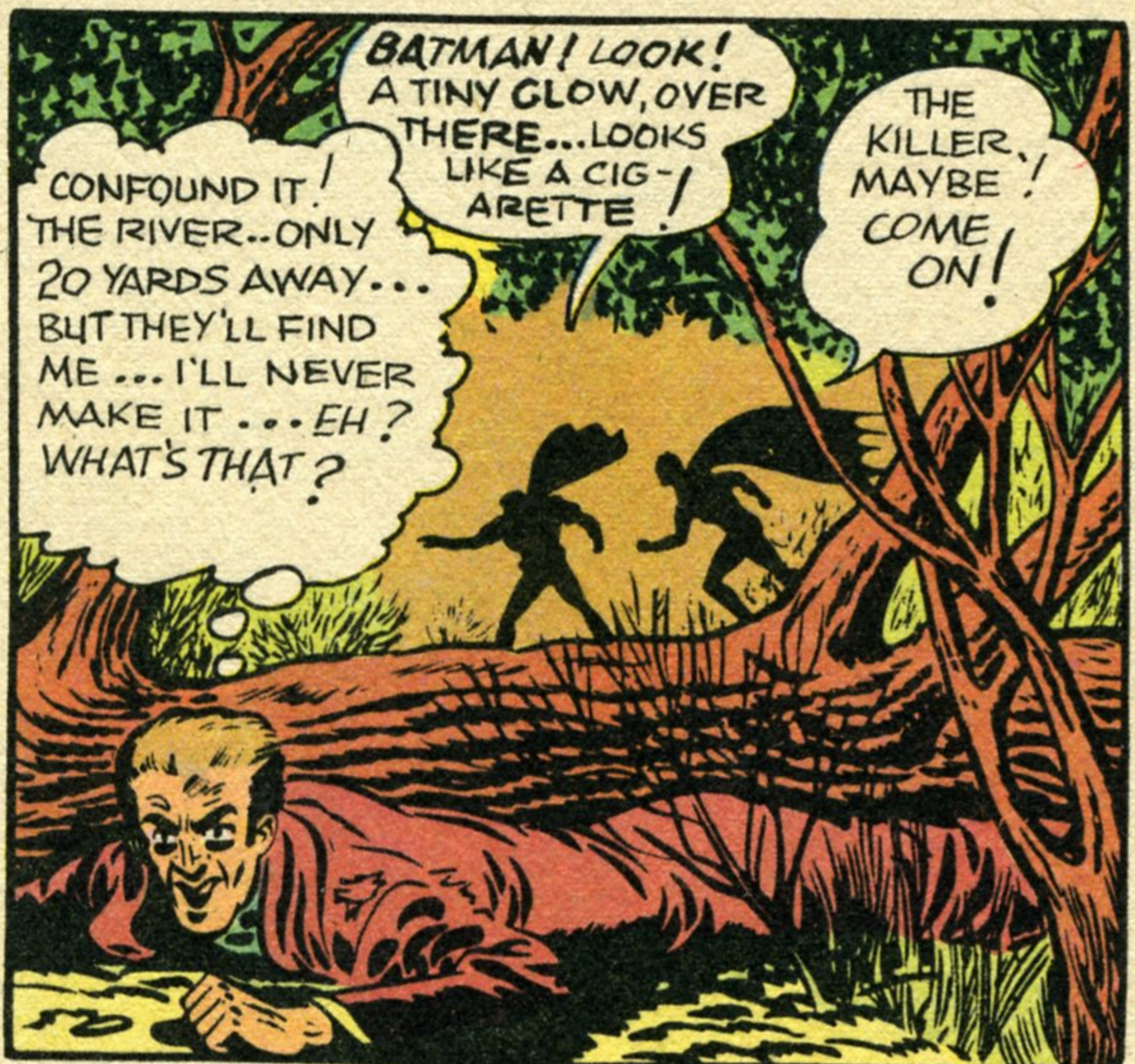
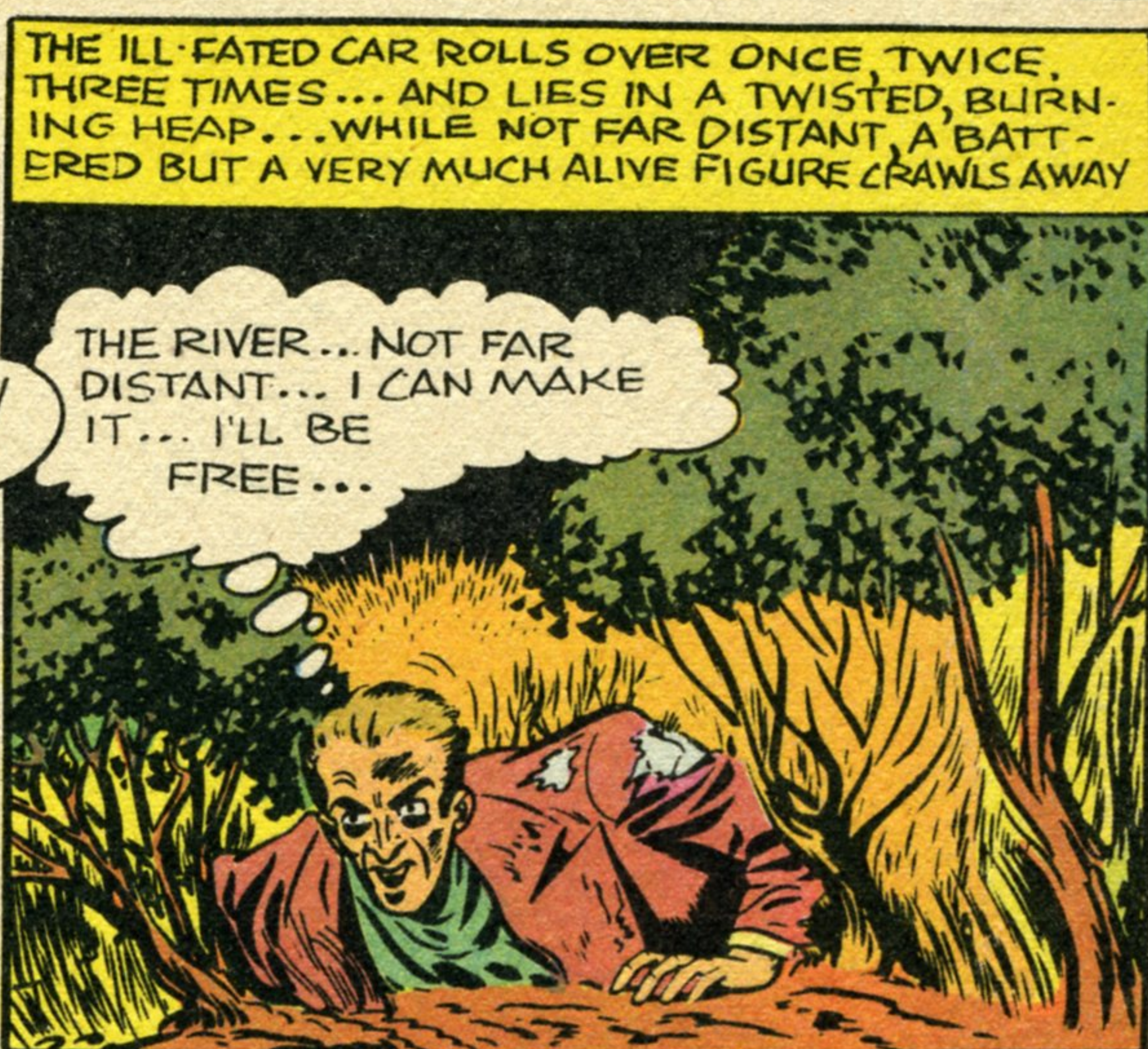
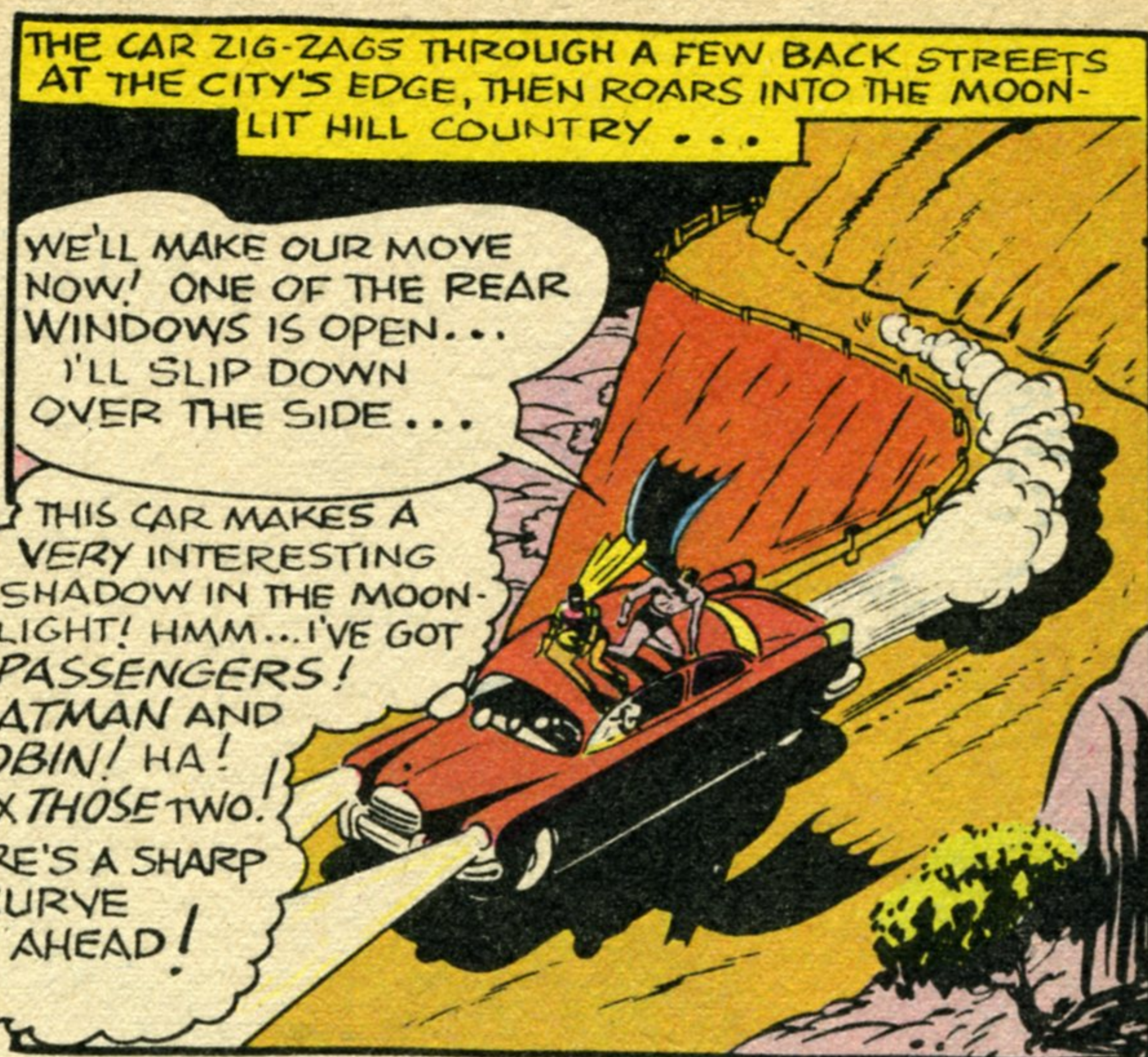
ULLLPS! BATMAN AND THE KID, ROBIN!

WGROMP!

I'LL TALK, BATMAN! I'LL TALK! WE'RE JUST HIRED HANDS ON THIS ONE! THE BIG BOSS IS... IS ... I ... I'M SHOT!

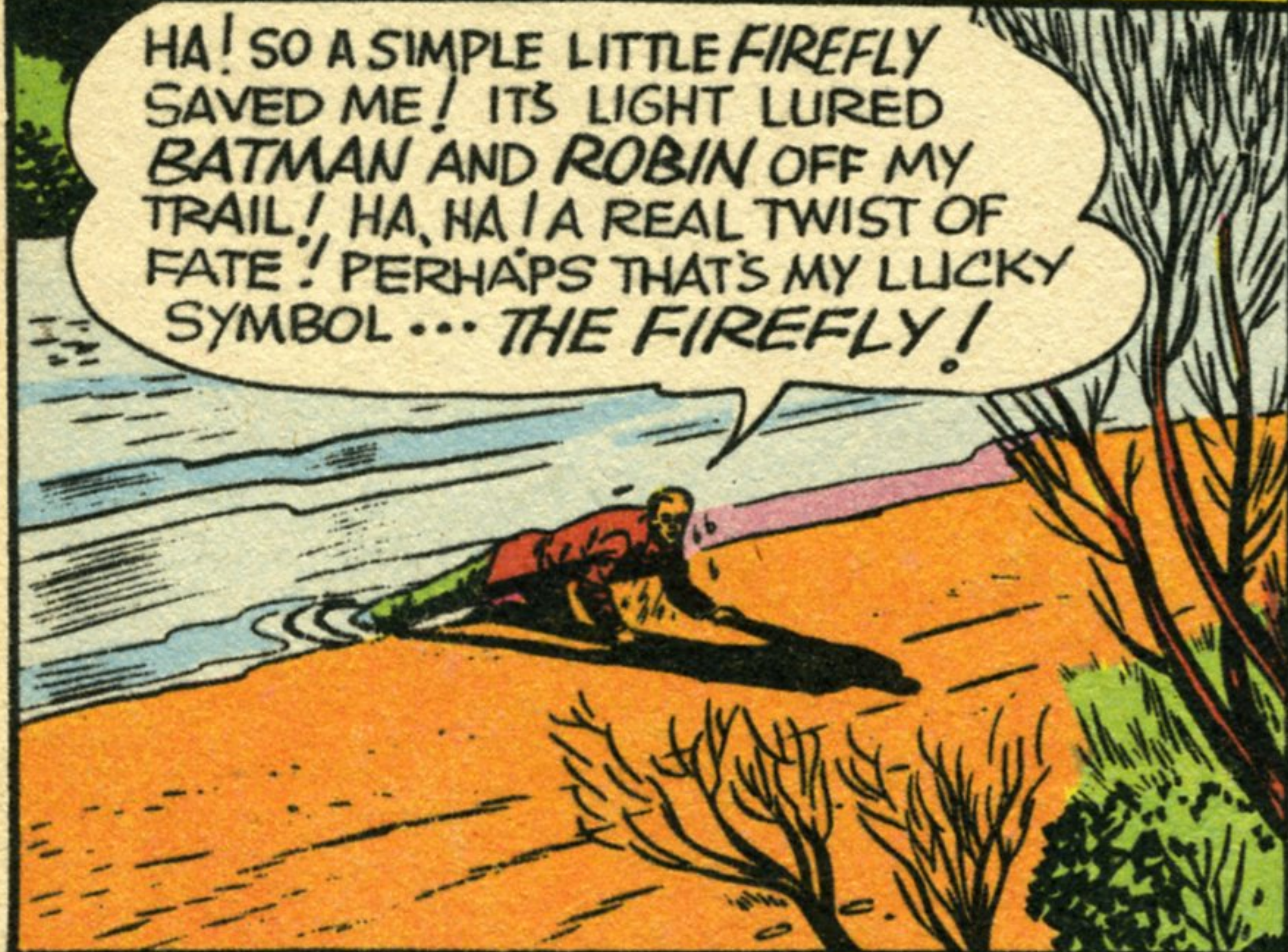
SOMEONE GOT LINKY FROM THE EXIT CORRIDOR ... AND THERE GOES THE SOMEONE! DOWN THE STAIRS.

BLAM!



SECONDS LATER, THE RIVER'S CURRENT CARRIES GARFIELD LYNNS FAR DOWNSTREAM . . .

HA! SO A SIMPLE LITTLE *FIREFLY* SAVED ME! ITS LIGHT LURED BATMAN AND ROBIN OFF MY TRAIL! HA, HA! A REAL TWIST OF FATE! PERHAPS THAT'S MY LUCKY SYMBOL . . . *THE FIREFLY!*



FOR CENTURIES THAT LITTLE FELLOW HAS BAFLED SCIENCE! LIKE ME, IT IS A LIGHT-ING GENIUS! AND NOW IT SAVED MY LIFE! HA! WHAT AN INSPIRATION IT HAS GIVEN ME! GARFIELD LYNNS IS GONE -- FOREVER! BUT IN HIS PLACE IS ONE THEY SHALL NEVER FORGET! . . . ONE WHOM THEY SHALL KNOW AS THE *FIREFLY!*



TWO WEEKS LATER IN A GOTHAM CITY APARTMENT . . .

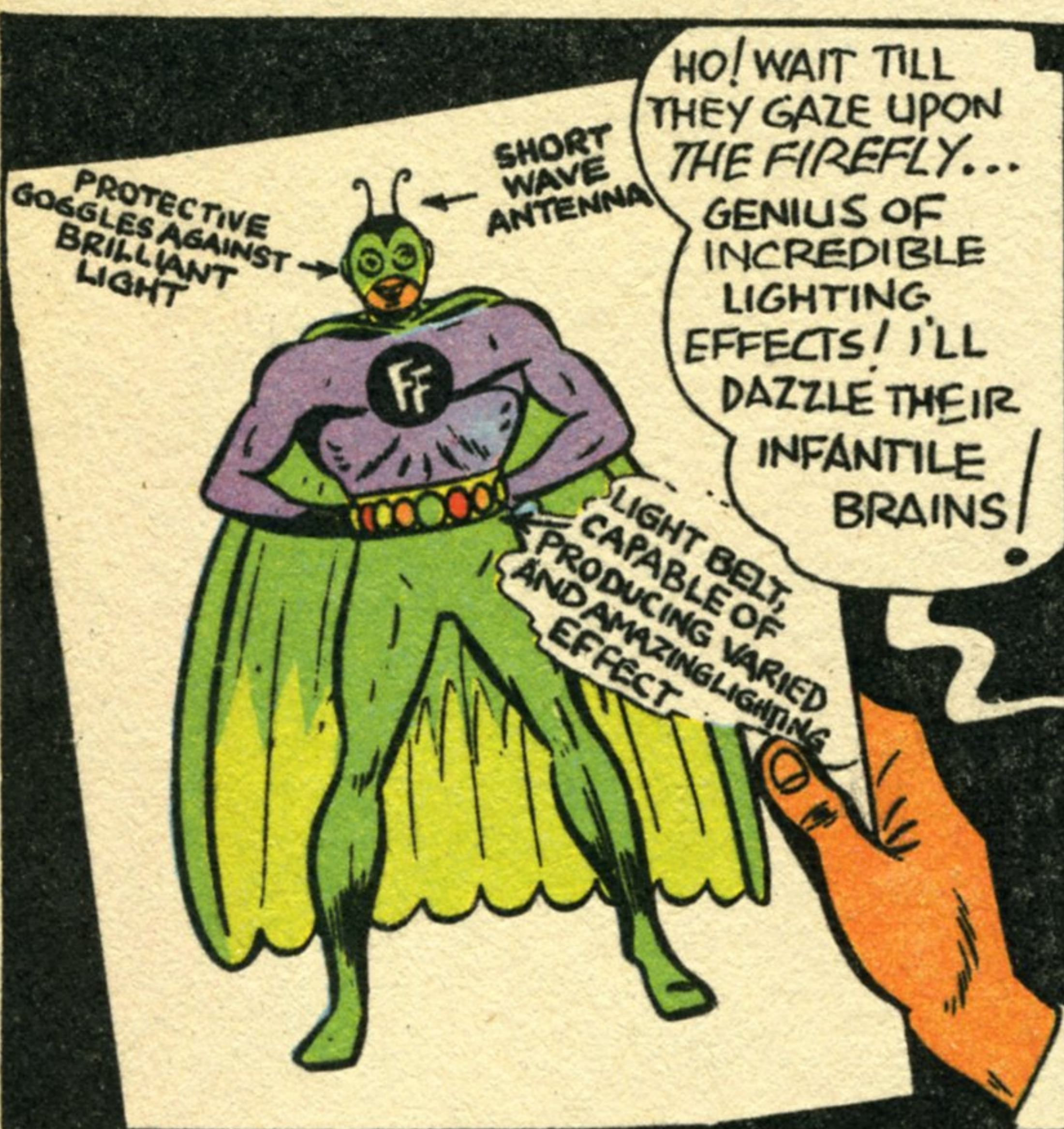
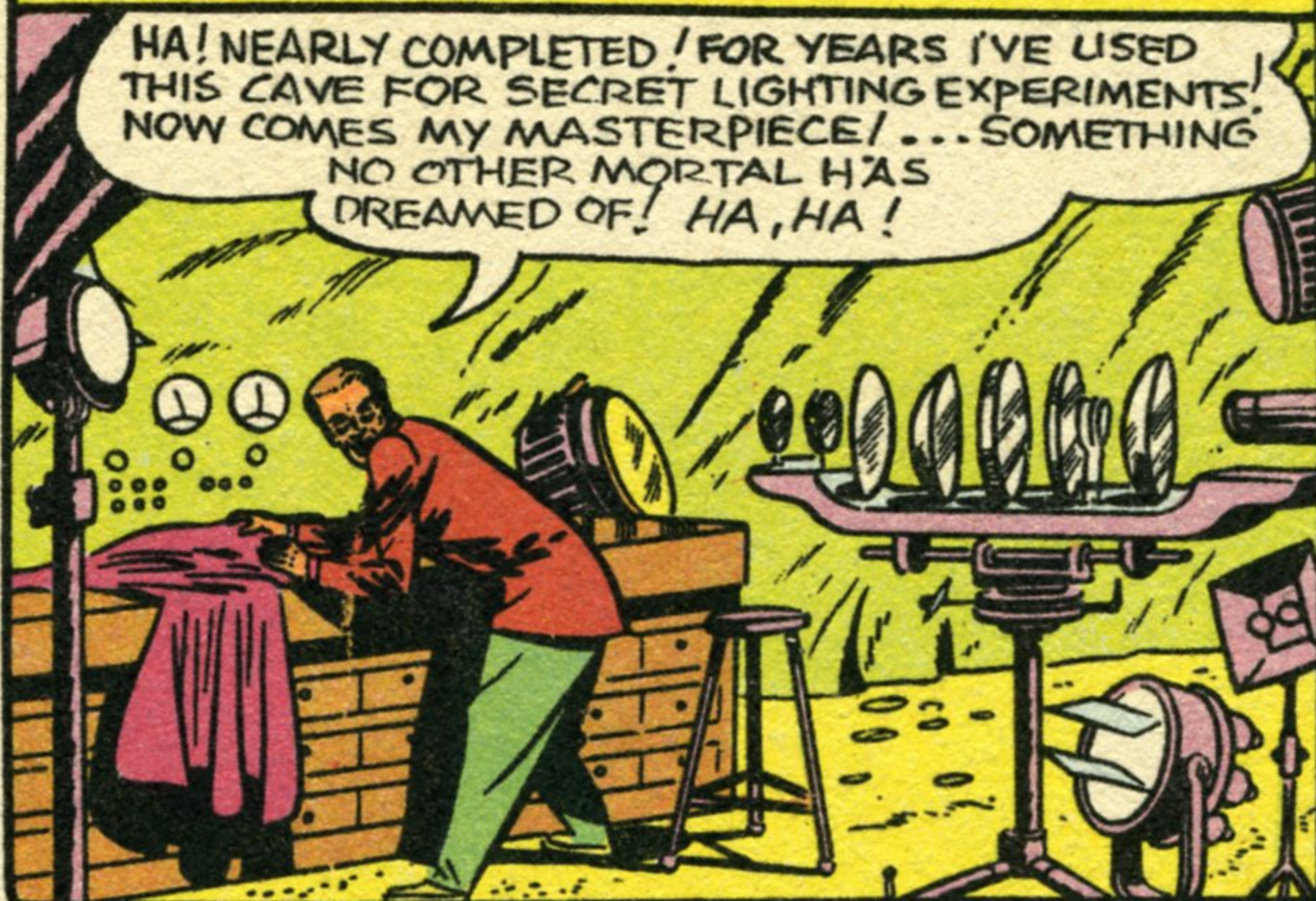
I SEE THERE'S NO SIGN OF GARFIELD LYNNS! TOO BAD HE GOT AWAY WHEN WE NEARLY GOT HIM NAILED.

DON'T REMIND ME! SILLY TO BE FOOLED BY A COMMON LITTLE *FIREFLY!* ANYWAY . . . THEY HAVE LYNNS FACE ON ALL THE POLICE POSTERS. THEY'LL GET HIM . . .! SOONER OR LATER!!



BUT MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY, IN A CAVE SITUATED BENEATH A BARN . . .

HA! NEARLY COMPLETED! FOR YEARS I'VE USED THIS CAVE FOR SECRET LIGHTING EXPERIMENTS. NOW COMES MY MASTERPIECE! . . . SOMETHING NO OTHER MORTAL HAS DREAMED OF! HA, HA!



NO IDLE WORDS ARE THESE, FOR THAT NIGHT AT THE GOTHAM CITY MUSEUM . . .



INSIDE ...

TWO VAN RHOH'S AND TWO VERNIER'S LOANED BY THE LOUVRE / THESE FOUR PAINTINGS, COMBINED ARE WORTH NEARLY A MILLION DOLLARS!

THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL! AND SUCH COLOURS HAVE BEEN EQUALLED BY ONLY A FEW!

CLOSING TIME, FOLKS! EVERYBODY MUST LEAVE THE MUSEUM NOW!

BUT NOT BEFORE MY LITTLE GAME IS IN EFFECT! I HEREBY INTRODUCE MY BLEACH LIGHT BAFFLER OF BAFFLERS!



WHAT THE GUARD SAW BEFORE THE LIGHT ...

AS THE FIREFLY PRESSES A BUTTON ON HIS BELT A STREAM OF LIGHT UNSEEN BY THE GUARD PLAYS OVER THE PAINTINGS... AND THE EFFECT IS TO ROB THE MASTERPIECES OF THEIR COLOR...



AND WHAT HE SAW AS THE LIGHT IS PLAYED ON THE PAINTINGS ...

THE GUARD FIRST PULLS A SWITCH, THEN BLOWS ON A WHISTLE ALERTING THE OTHERS

THEY'LL NOT GET AWAY! THIS ALARM REGISTERS AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AND NOW ...



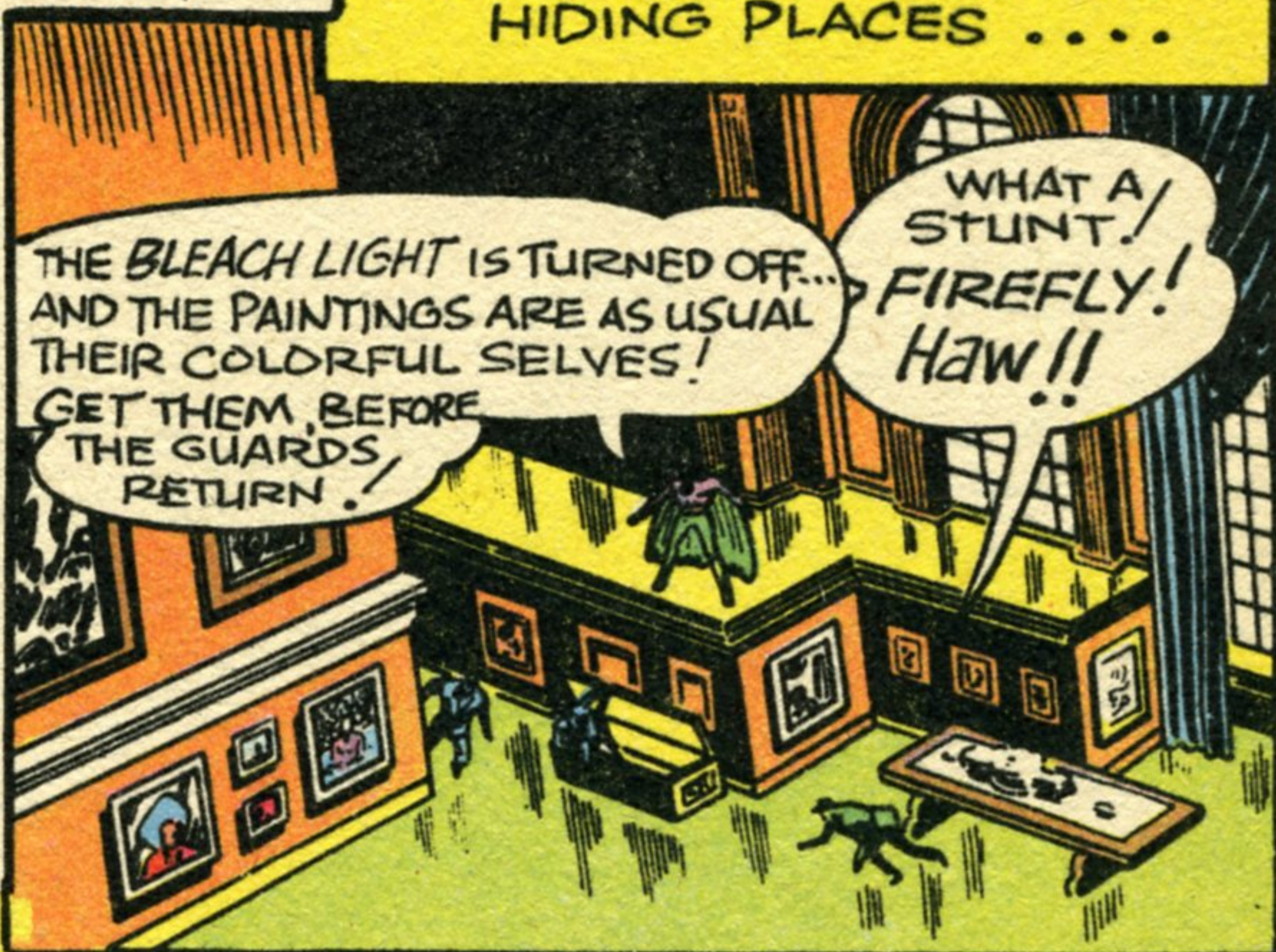
GREAT GUNS! THE PAINTINGS HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH SOME ORDINARY BLACK AND WHITE ONES RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE! THE ORIGINALS, IN COLOR HAVE BEEN **STOLEN!**

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT OR TWO, THE EXHIBIT ROOM IS LEFT "EMPTY"... BUT THEN FIGURES SPRING FROM HIDING PLACES ...

OF ALL THE NERVE... SUSPECTING ME!

I'LL SPEAK TO THE DIRECTOR! ABOUT THIS. THE NERVE... SUGGESTING THAT I WOULD STEAL!

SORRY, SIR! WE WON'T ACTUALLY SEARCH... AN ELECTRIC RAY WILL REVEAL ANY HIDDEN CANVASSES THAT ARE ROLLED UP UNDER ANYONES CLOTHES!



THE BLEACH LIGHT IS TURNED OFF... AND THE PAINTINGS ARE AS USUAL THEIR COLORFUL SELVES! GET THEM, BEFORE THE GUARDS RETURN!

WHAT A STUNT! FIREFLY! Haw!!

AS ALL VISITORS ARE ROUNDED UP ...

PRESENTLY, IN RESPONSE TO THE ALARM TRANSMITTED TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS, THE EERIE BAT-SIGNAL STABS THE SKY SUMMONING THE DYNAMIC DUO TO THE SCENE IN THEIR POWERFUL BATMOBILE ...

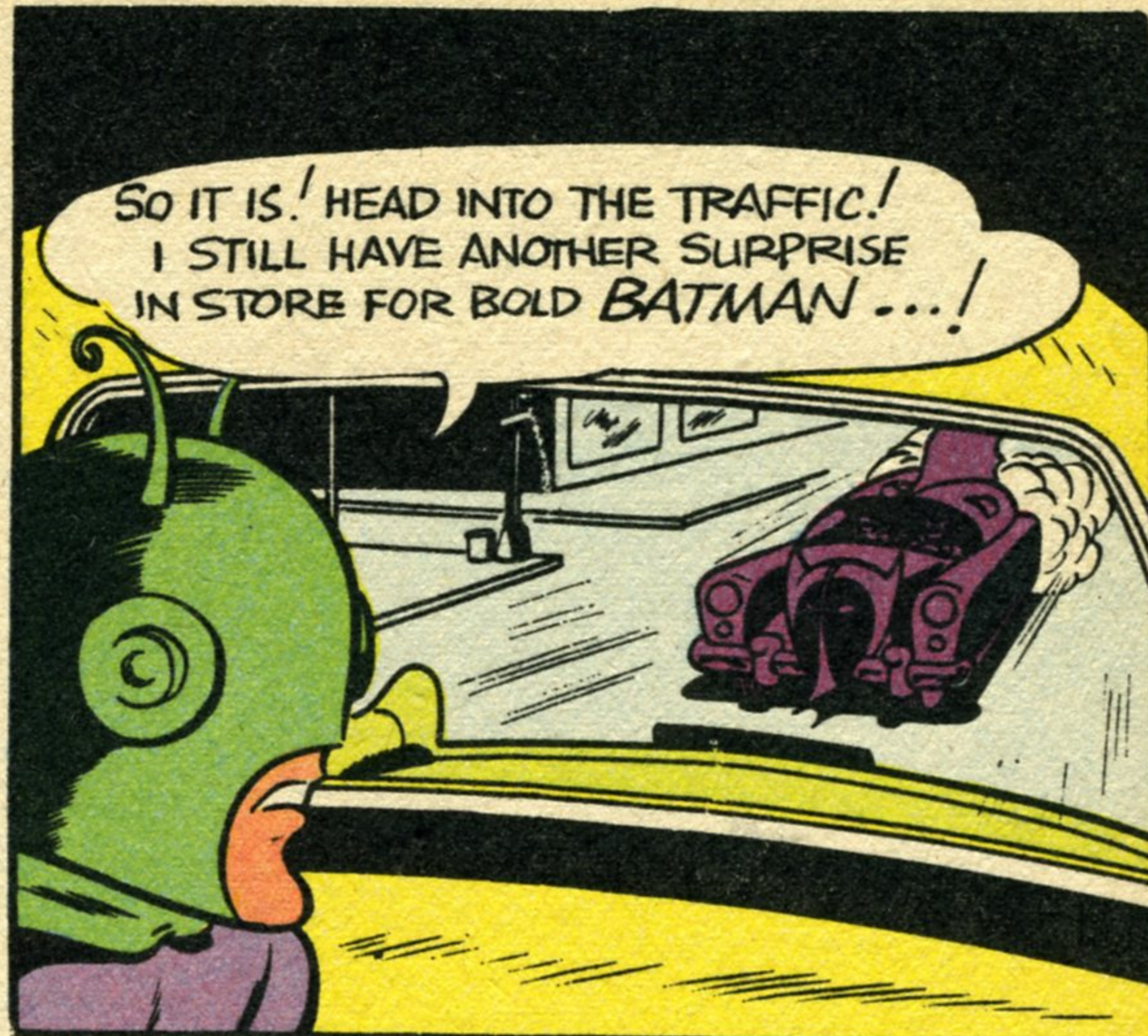
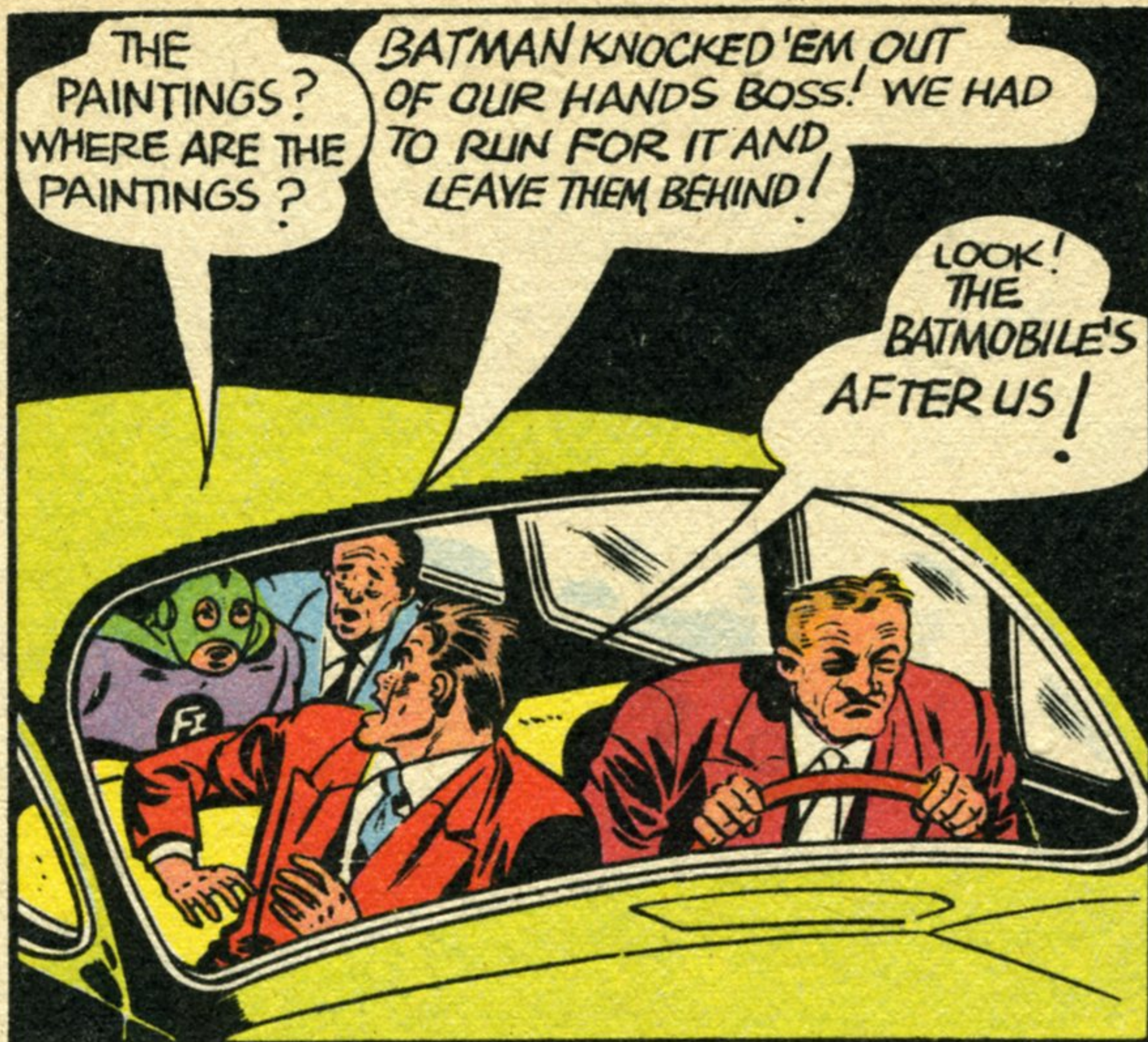


MEANWHILE ...

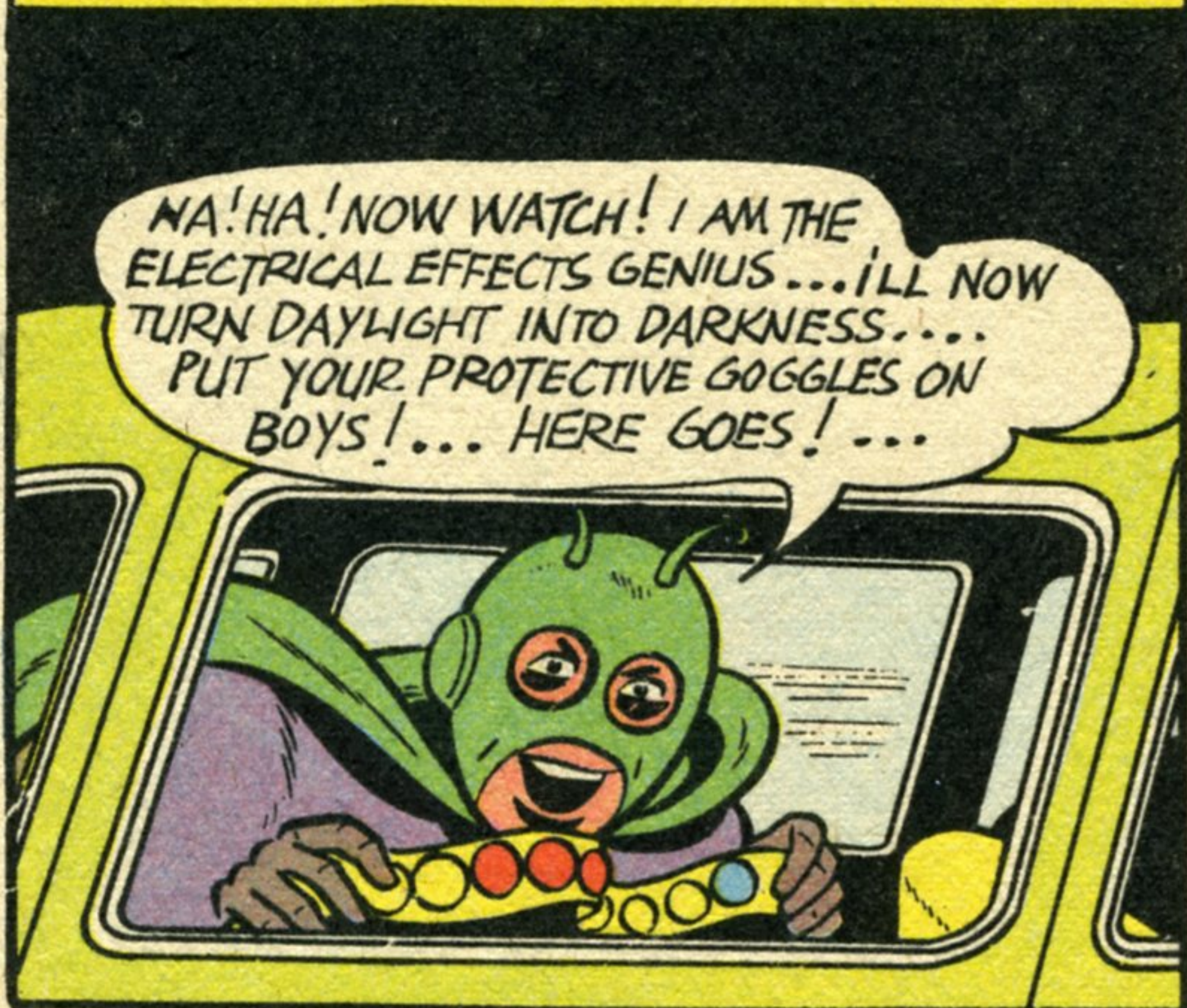


RUNNING SWIFTLY INTO THE MUSEUM'S "ROOM OF CRYSTALS" THE MAN OF 1,000 LIGHTS PRESSES ANOTHER BUTTON ON HIS BELT AND PULLS A DAZZLING SURPRISE ON HIS PURSUERS ...

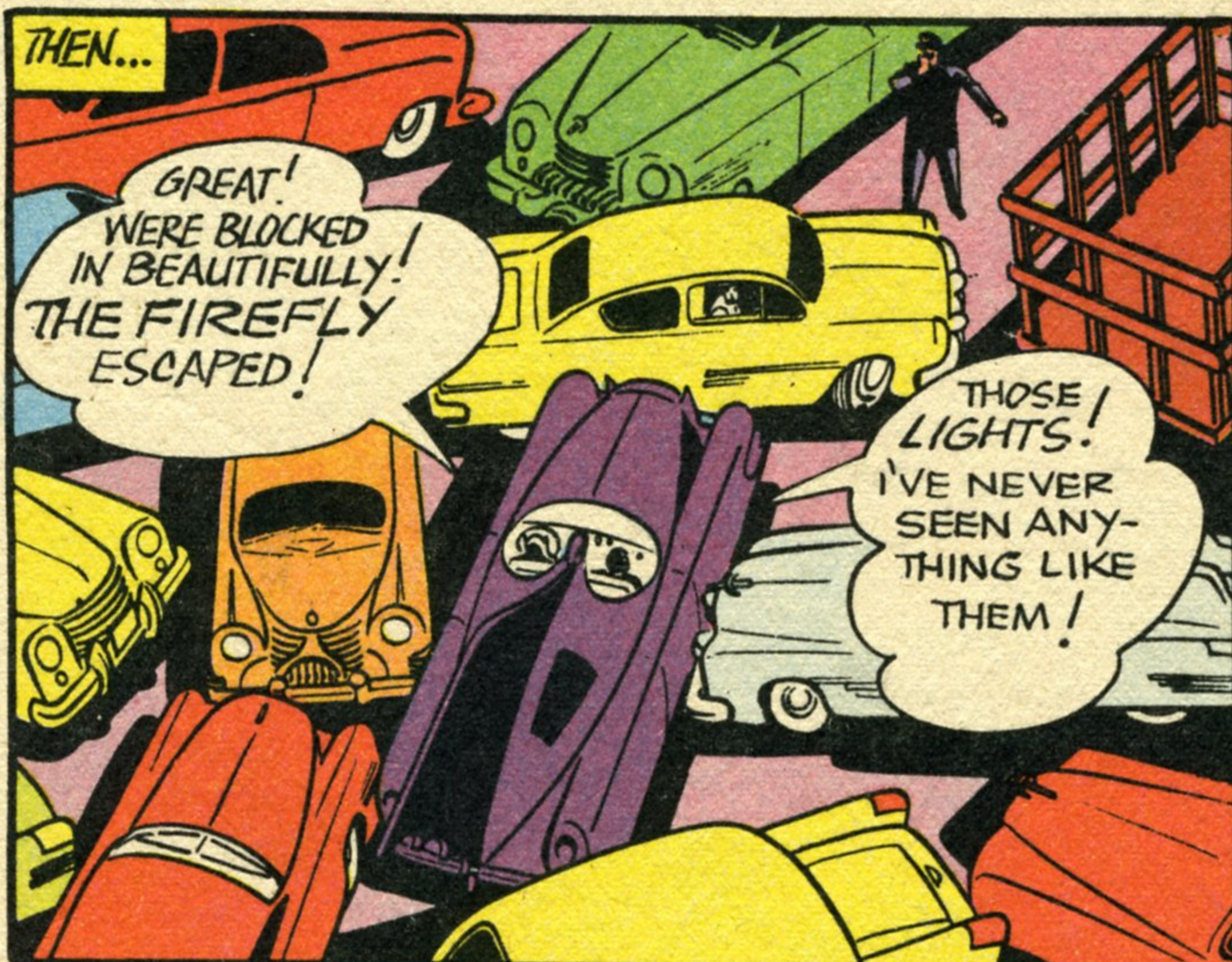




THE GETAWAY CAR TURNS ONTO GOTHAM CITY'S MAIN STREET, AND THEN . . .



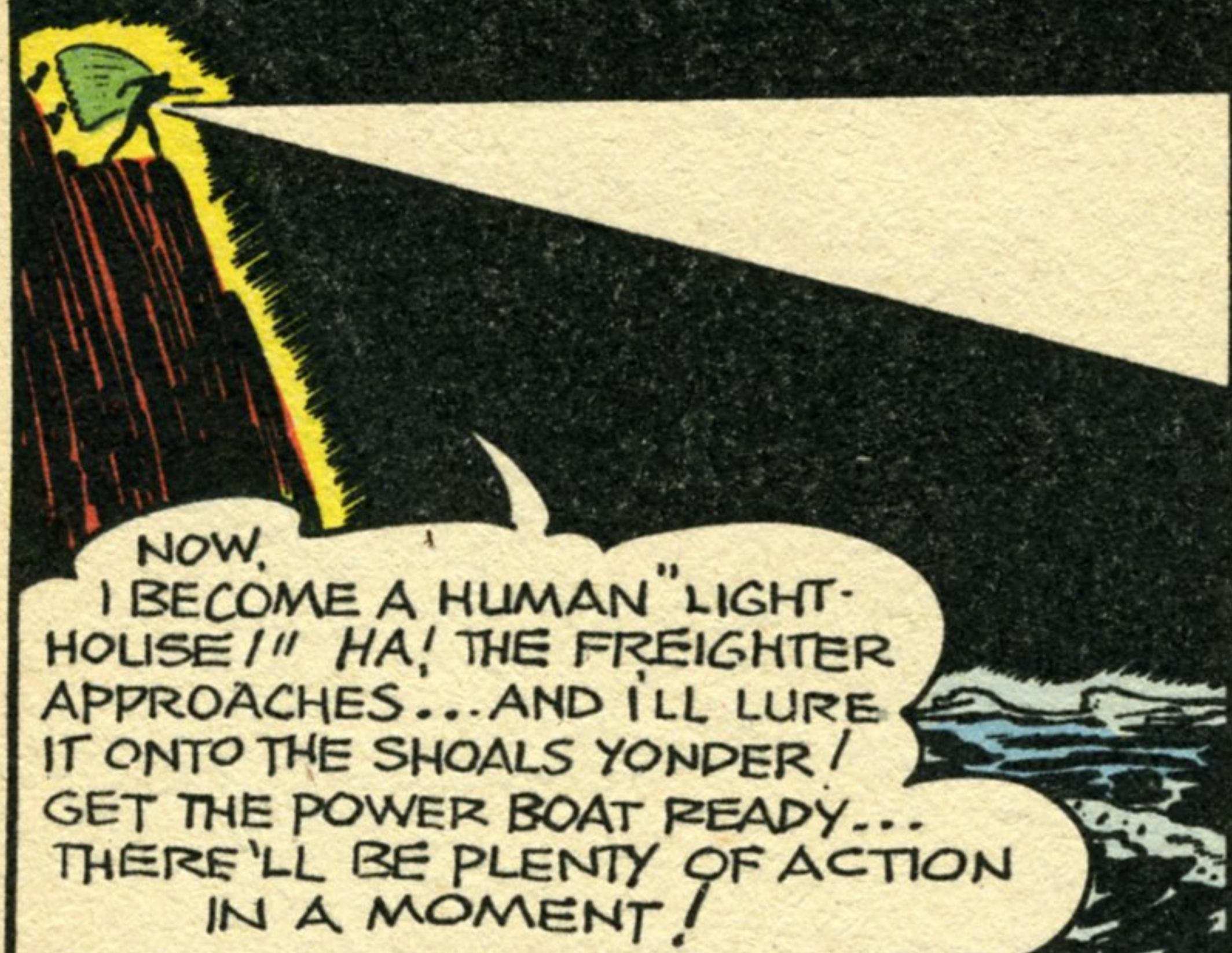
SUDDENLY, THE WHOLE OF GOTHAM CITY SEEMS TO BE LIT UP BY BLINDING FLASHES OF LIGHTNING ... WHILE TRAFFIC ZIG-ZAGS CRAZILY ...



ON THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, THE SINISTER FIREFLY GATHERS HIS COHORTS ON A ROCKBOUND SHORE . . .



SUDDENLY, FROM THE AMAZING BELT, A BRILLIANT BEAM PENETRATES THE DARKNESS ABOVE THE WATERS ...



NOW, I BECOME A HUMAN "LIGHTHOUSE!" HA! THE FREIGHTER APPROACHES... AND I'LL LURE IT ONTO THE SHOALS YONDER! GET THE POWER BOAT READY... THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF ACTION IN A MOMENT!

DECOYED BY THE FALSE BEACON, THE SHIP CRASHES!



WE'VE RUN ONTO THE SHOALS!

KR..KR..KRWA..KGR.

THEN...



CAPTAIN KIDD COULD'VE LEARNED PLENTY FROM MY TACTICS! HA, HA! COVER THOSE CREWMEN!

OKAY, YOU GUYS! DON'T MAKE A MOVE!

AN INSTANT LATER, IN THE SHIP'S RADIO ROOM...



THAT IDIOT'S TRYING TO SEND AN S.O.S.-!

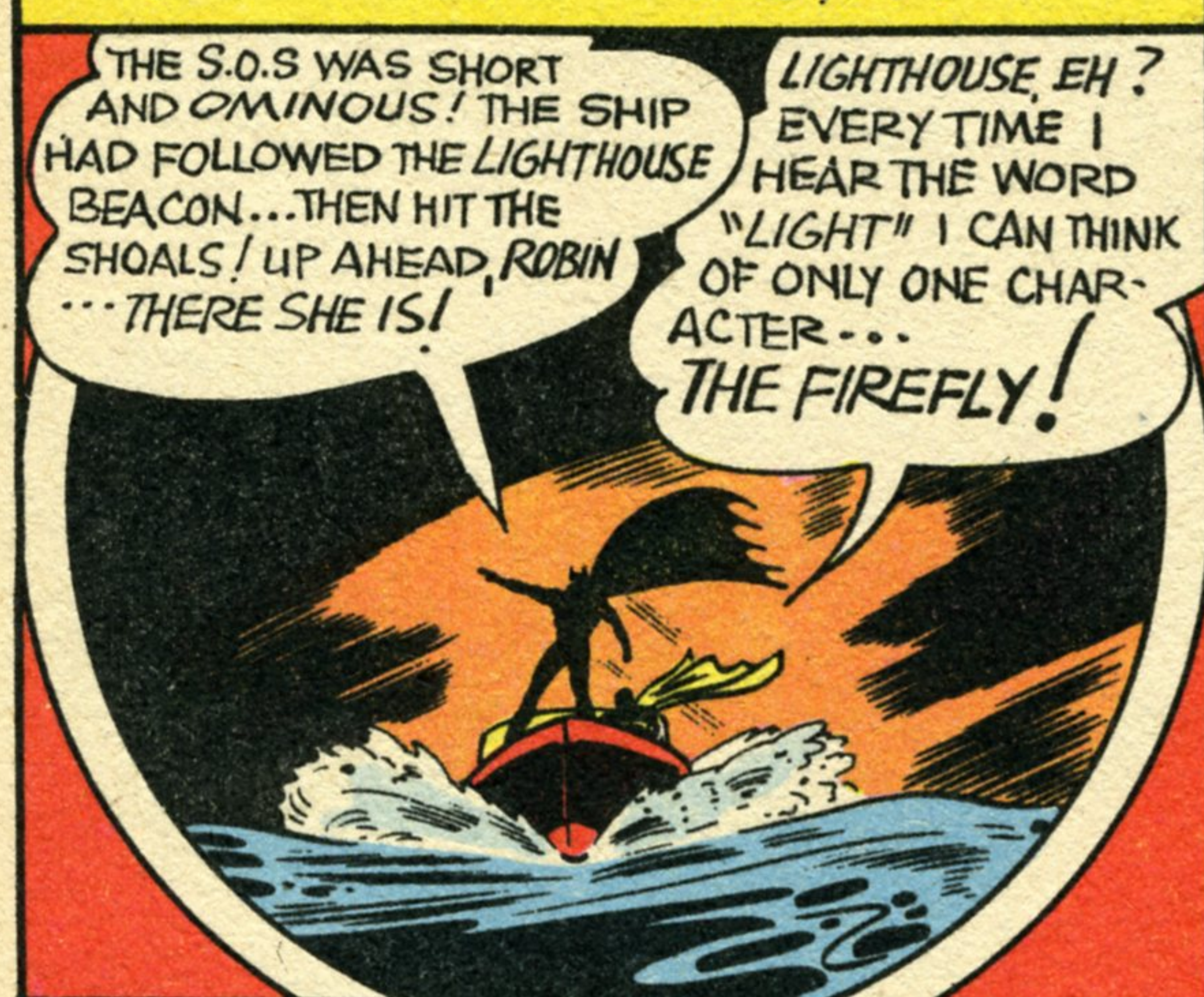
THAT'LL STOP HIM!

TR..TR.. TR..TR..

BUT THE SIGNAL HAS ALREADY RACED OUT OVER THE ETHER WAVES, AND....

THE S.O.S WAS SHORT AND OMINOUS! THE SHIP HAD FOLLOWED THE LIGHTHOUSE BEACON... THEN HIT THE SHOALS! UP AHEAD, ROBIN... THERE SHE IS!

LIGHTHOUSE, EH? EVERY TIME I HEAR THE WORD "LIGHT" I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE CHARACTER... THE FIREFLY!



YA-A-A-A! WE BEEN UPSET! LOOK OUT!

SWHOOSH

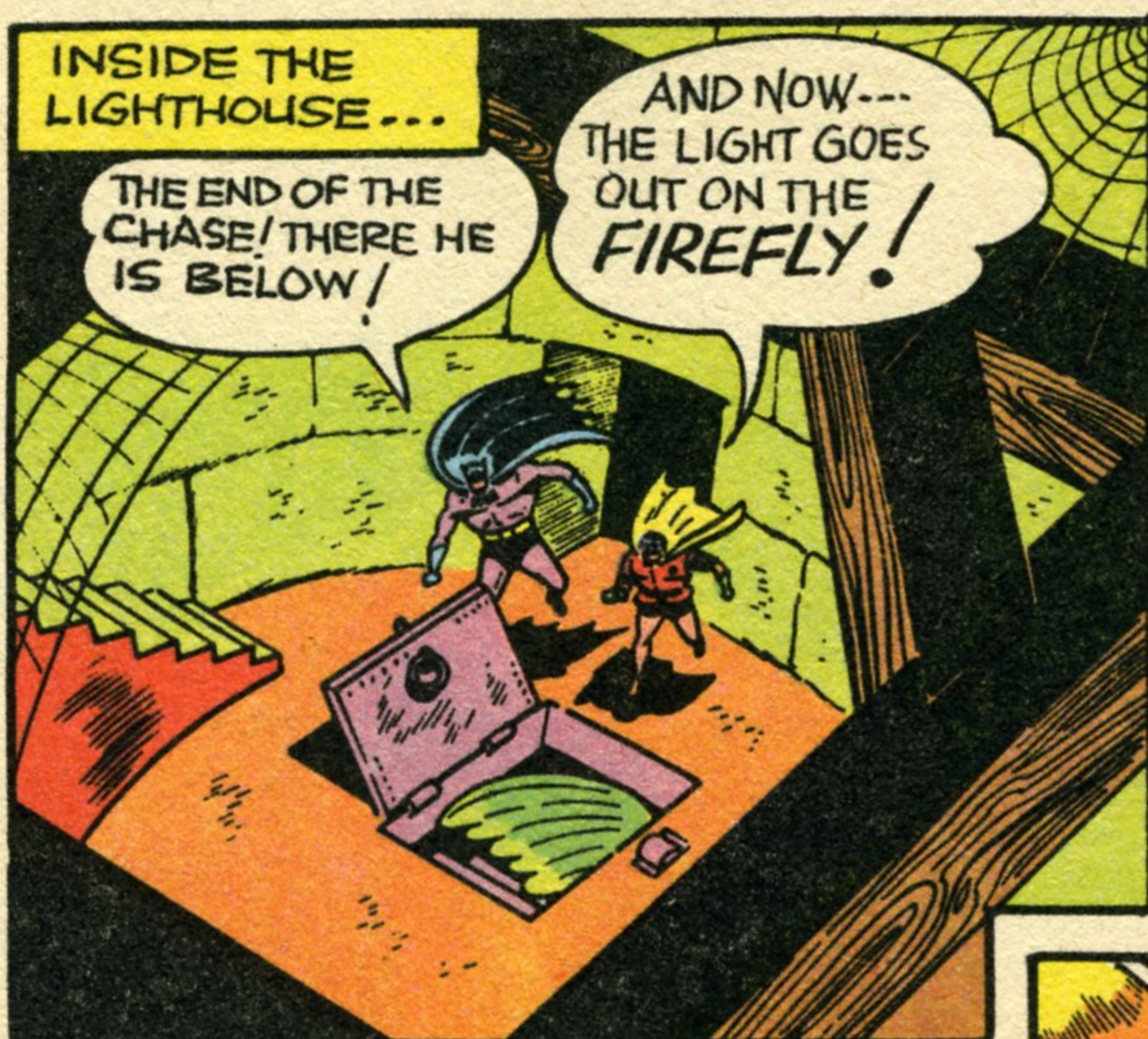
AMID THE CONFUSION, ONE FIGURE QUICKLY
MAKES HIS WAY DOWNSHORE AND
SCRAMBLES UPON THE ROCKY BEACH . . .



INSIDE THE
LIGHTHOUSE . . .

THE END OF THE
CHASE! THERE HE
IS BELOW!

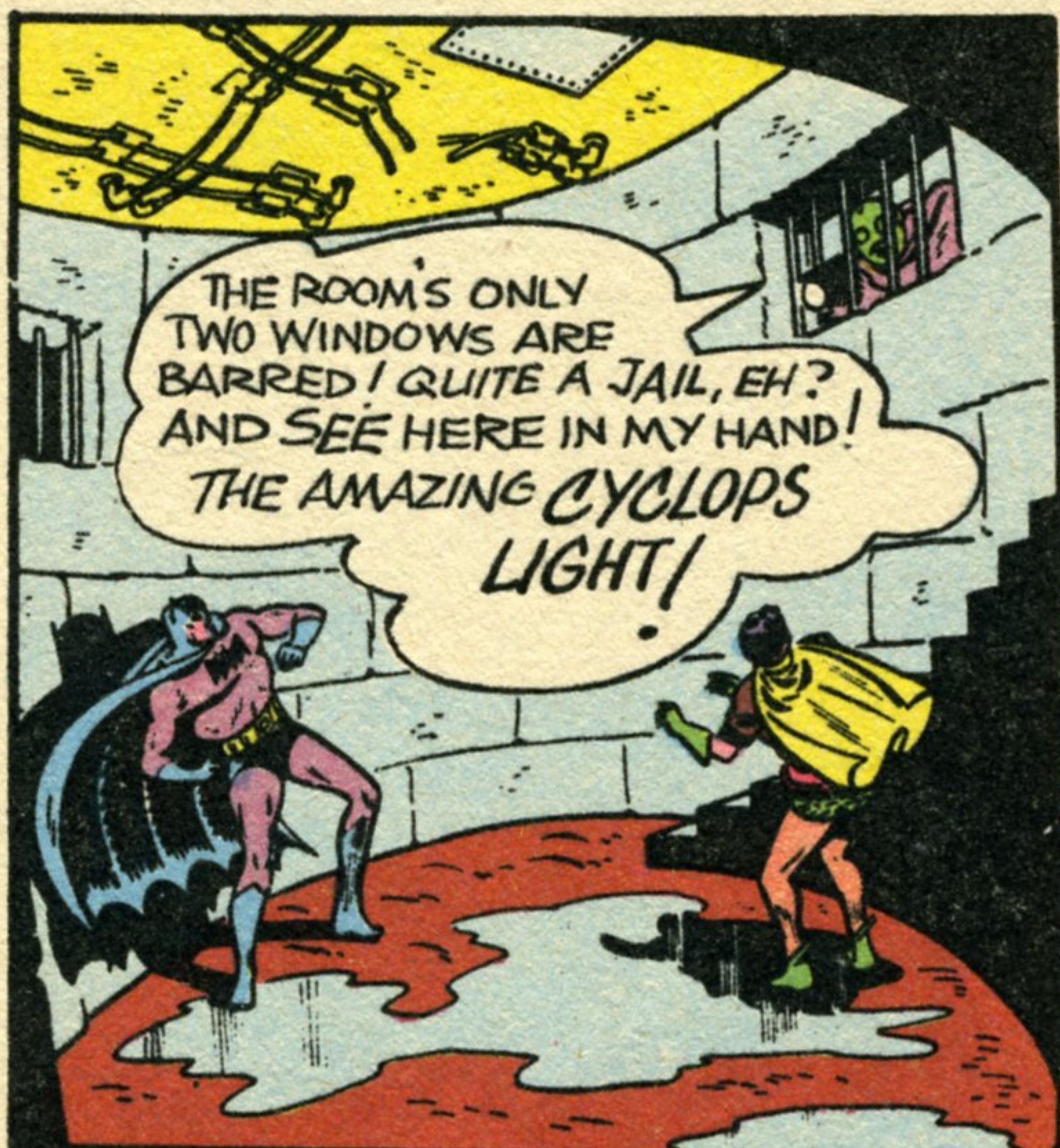
AND NOW...
THE LIGHT GOES
OUT ON THE
FIREFLY!



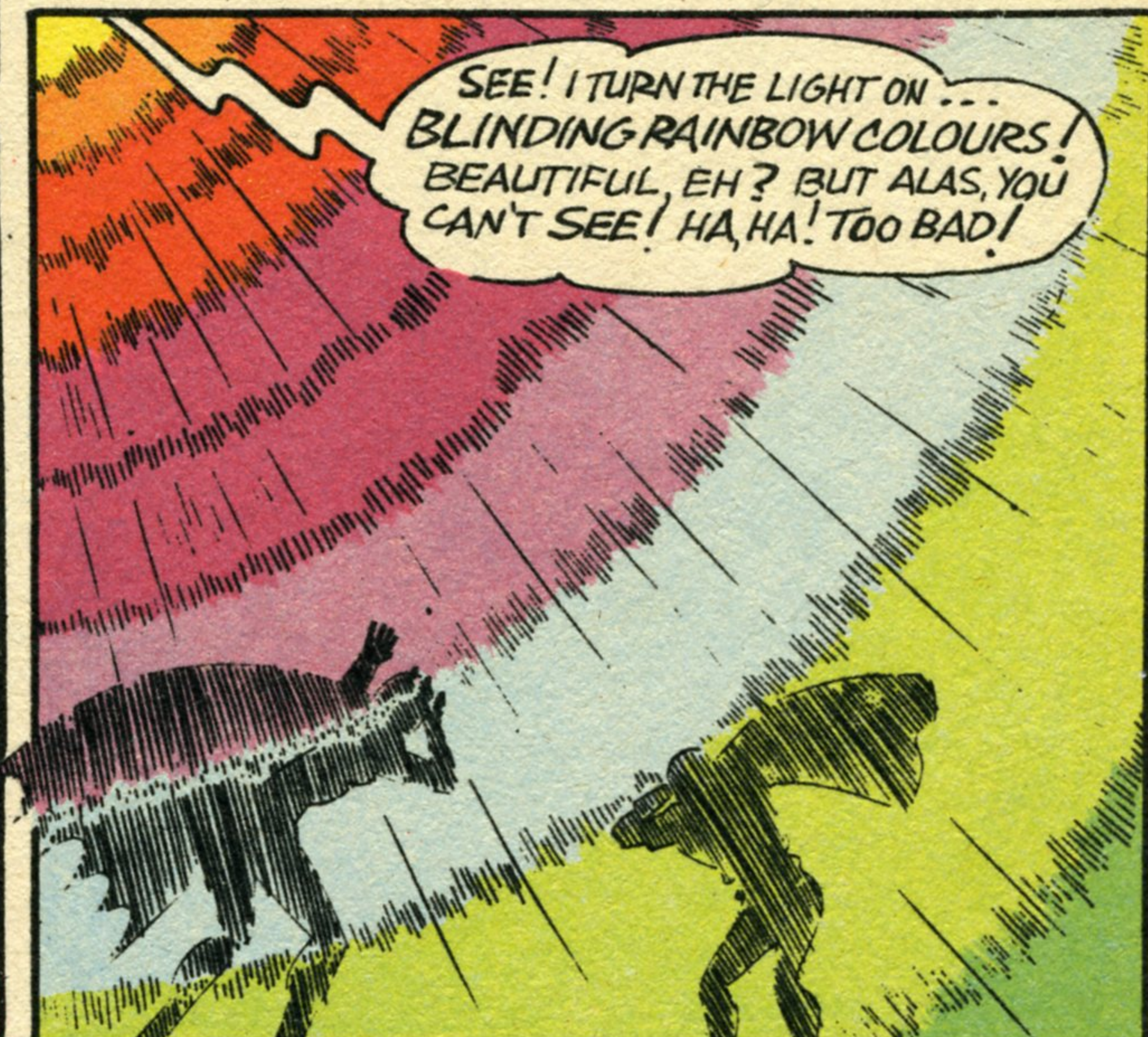
HA! MERELY MY CAPE YOU SAW
BELOW BATMAN! YOU'RE IN THE OLD LIGHT-
HOUSE STOREROOM... THERE IS NO
ESCAPE! NOW... I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING!

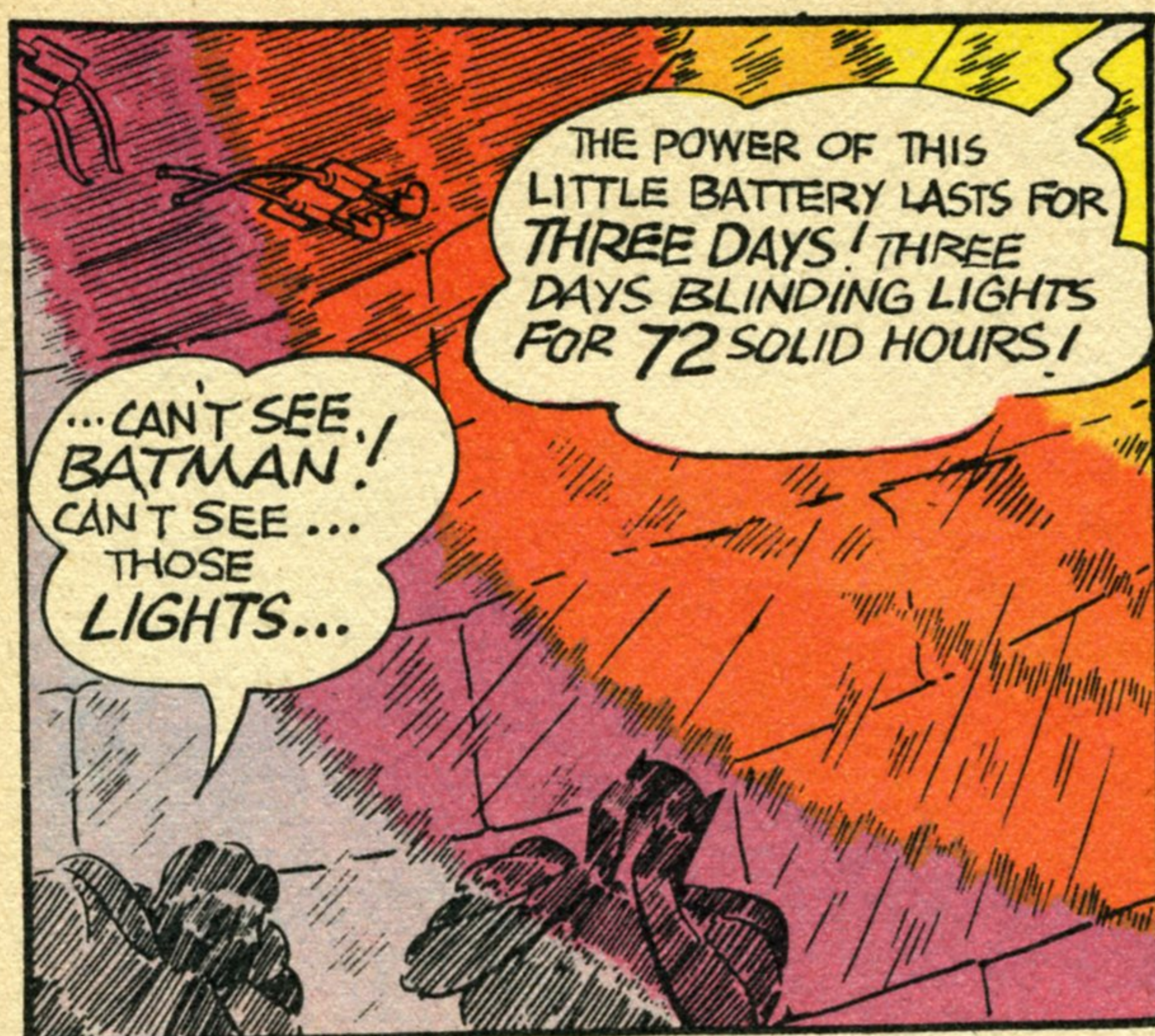


THE ROOM'S ONLY
TWO WINDOWS ARE
BARRED! QUITE A JAIL, EH?
AND SEE HERE IN MY HAND!
THE AMAZING **CYCLOPS
LIGHT!**



SEE! I TURN THE LIGHT ON...
BLINDING RAINBOW COLOURS!
BEAUTIFUL, EH? BUT ALAS, YOU
CAN'T SEE! HA, HA! TOO BAD!





THE POWER OF THIS LITTLE BATTERY LASTS FOR THREE DAYS! THREE DAYS BLINDING LIGHTS FOR 72 SOLID HOURS!

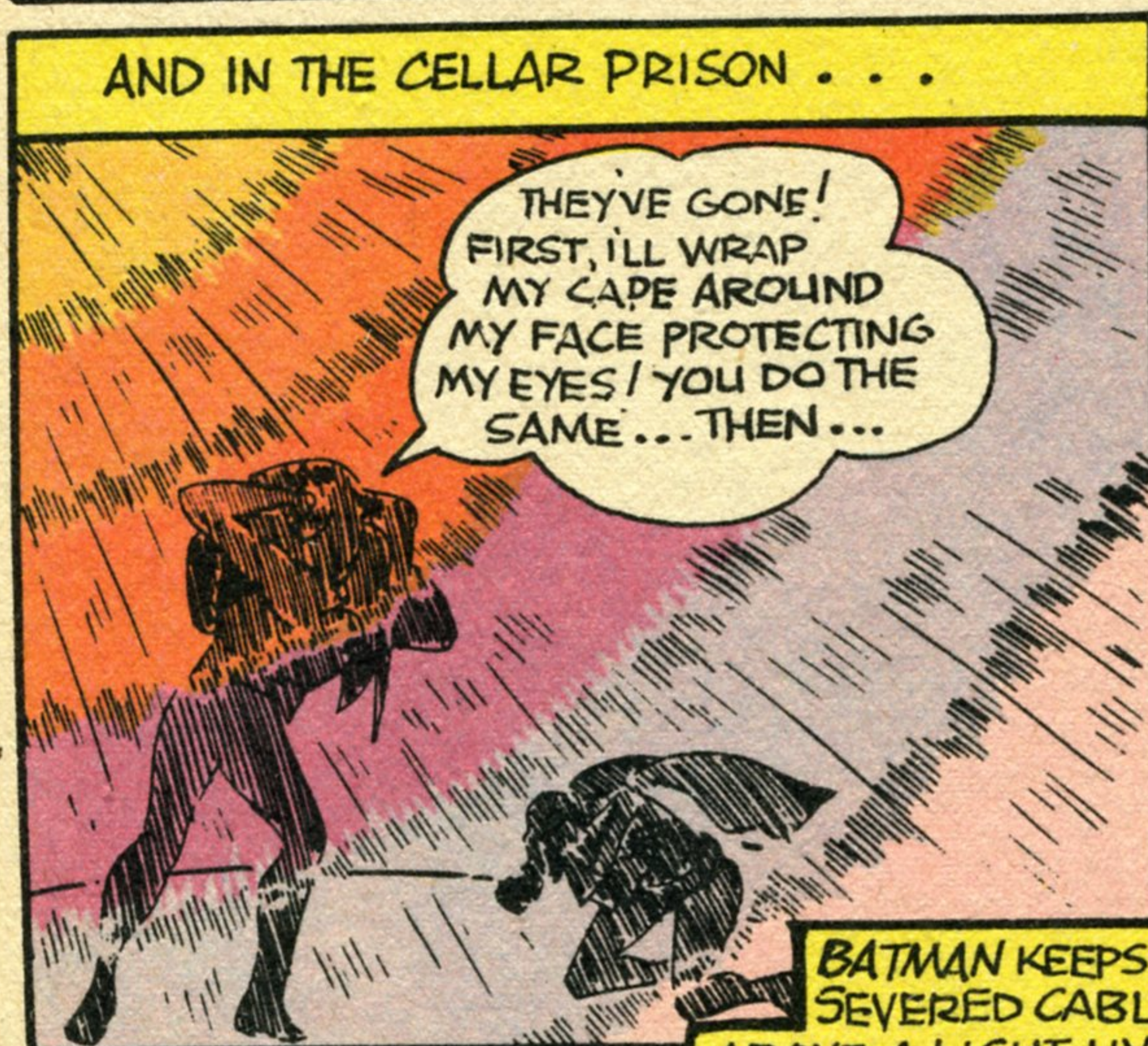
...CAN'T SEE, BATMAN!
CAN'T SEE... THOSE LIGHTS...



THEN...

I CAPTURED BATMAN AND ROBIN! THEY'RE BELOW!... NOT DOING SO WELL! WE'LL GO AHEAD WITH THE AIRPORT JOB TONIGHT! A SHIPMENT OF RARE GEMS IS COMING IN! THIS TIME THERE SHALL BE NO SLIP-UPS!

WE GOT AWAY, BOSS! WHERE'S BATMAN?



THEY'VE GONE! FIRST, I'LL WRAP MY CAPE AROUND MY FACE PROTECTING MY EYES! YOU DO THE SAME... THEN...



BALANCE ME ON YOUR FEET... LIKE THAT! I CAN SEE THROUGH THE CAPE JUST ENOUGH! IN AN OLD STORE ROOM LIKE THIS, A FRESHLY CUT ELECTRIC CABLE IS VERY INTERESTING... BECAUSE I THINK IT FEEDS POWER TO THE BEACON LIGHT! THAT'S WHY THE LIGHT IS OUT!

BATMAN KEEPS TOUCHING THE SEVERED CABLE ENDS AND ABOVE A LIGHT LIVES ONCE MORE... A LIGHT THAT DANCES OVER THE WATERS IN MORSE CODE!



THE CABLE IS ALIVE! AND NOW IF MY ASSUMPTION WAS CORRECT...

TSRR!
TSRRR
TSRRR!



AND IF I AM CORRECT, THIS SHOULD BRING RESULTS! AND I HOPE, SOON!



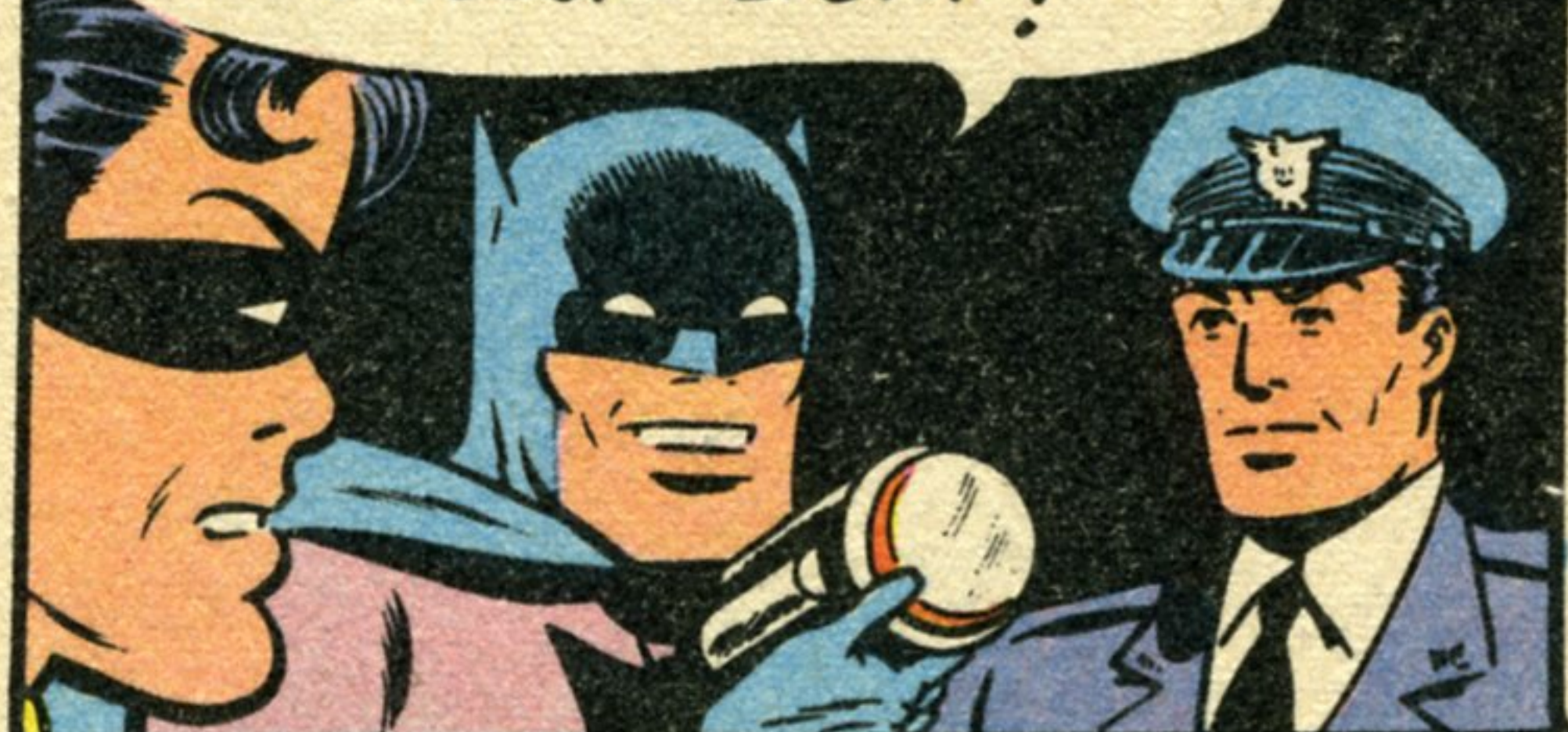
HALF AN HOUR LATER, THE STEEL TRAP DOOR IS OPENED, AND TWO NEARLY-BLINDED FIGURES ARE LED OUT...

THE COAST GUARD! THANK THE STARS!

BATMAN! ROBIN! WE SAW YOUR SIGNALS! WE CAME AT ONCE!

AND THEN . . .

THE *FIREFLY* HAS A SHIP-
MENT OF GEMS AT THE AIRPORT!
SO FIRST, WE'LL MAKE A PHONE CALL!
THEN WE'RE GETTING THE *BAT-
PLANE* AND TAKING THIS
LITTLE GIMMICK WITH US . . .
THE *CYCLOPS LIGHT*!

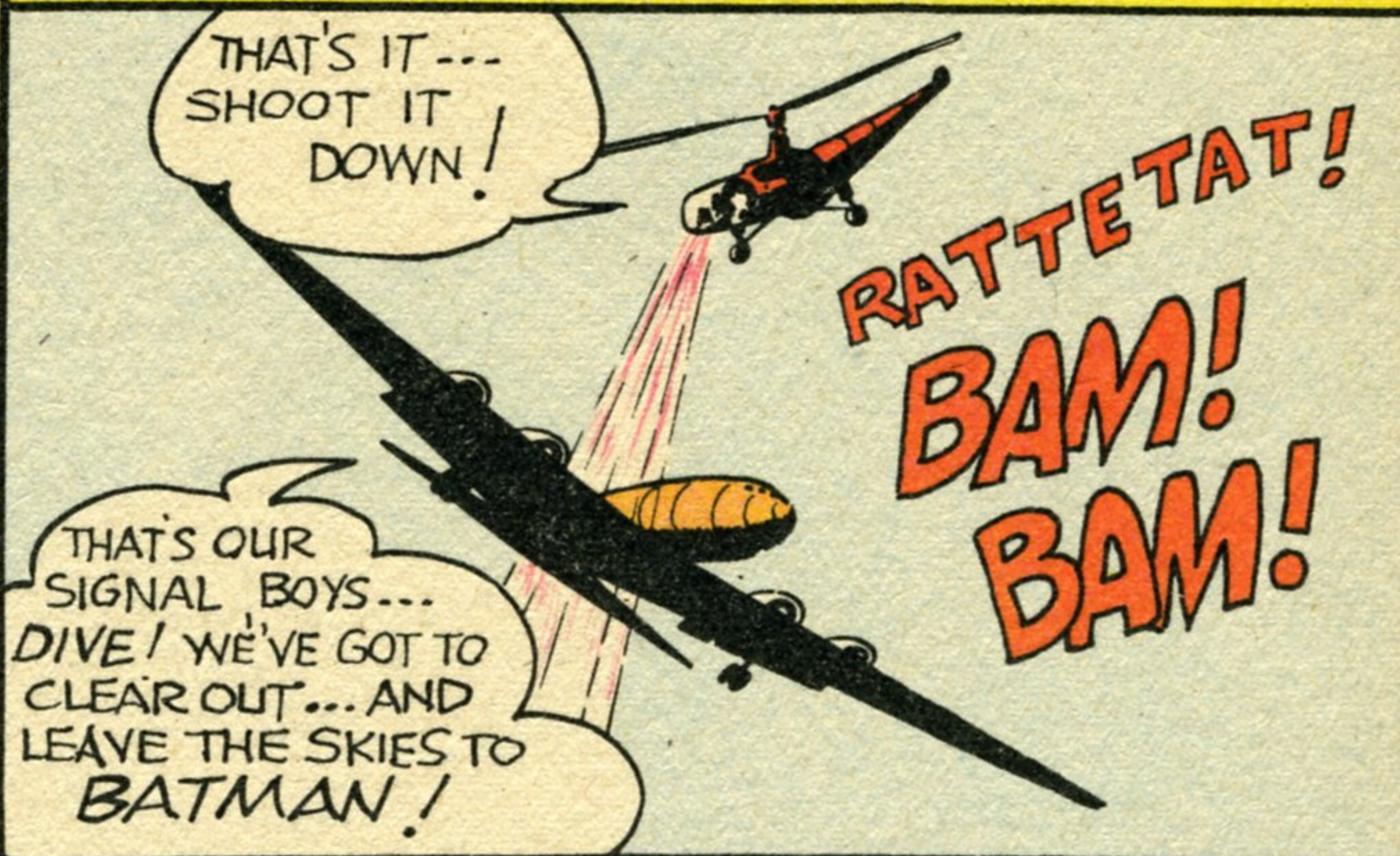


ALMOST AN HOUR LATER, A CARGO CRAFT
SPEEDS TOWARD THE GOTHAM AIRPORT WHEN
ABRUPTLY, FROM ABOVE, APPEARS AN AUTOGYRO ---
MACHINE GUNS BLAZING!

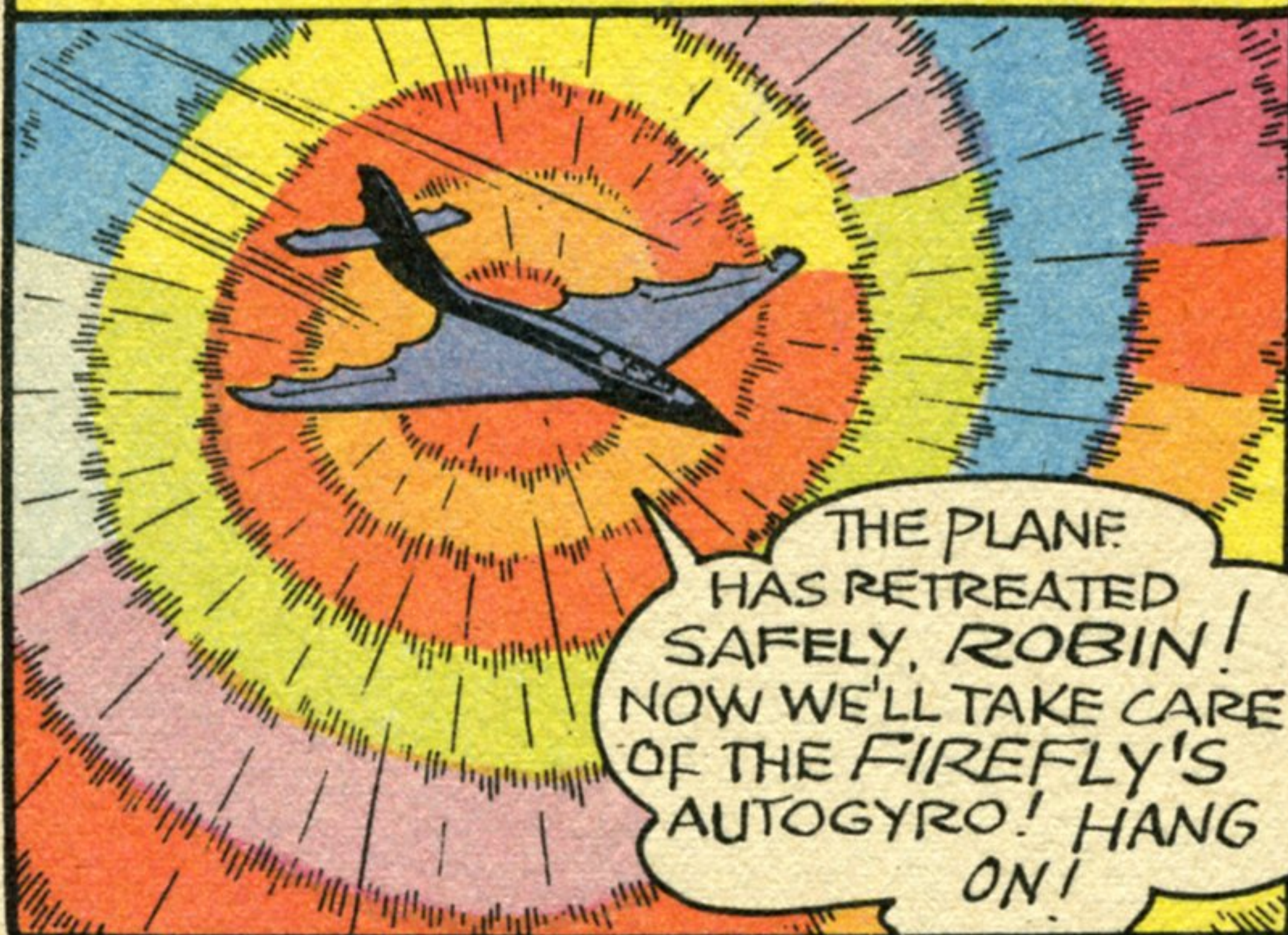
THAT'S IT ---
SHOOT IT
DOWN!

THAT'S OUR
SIGNAL BOYS . . .
DIVE! WE'VE GOT TO
CLEAR OUT . . . AND
LEAVE THE SKIES TO
BATMAN!

RATTETAT!
BAM!
BAM!



SUDDENLY, THE *BATPLANE* APPEARS . . .
FEARSOME THING OF THE NIGHT HEAVENS
. . . ACCOMPANIED BY SPIRALING,
BLINDING, LIGHTS OF THE RAINBOW!



THE PLANE
HAS RETREATED
SAFELY, *ROBIN*!
NOW WE'LL TAKE CARE
OF THE *FIREFLY*'S
AUTOGYRO! HANG
ON!

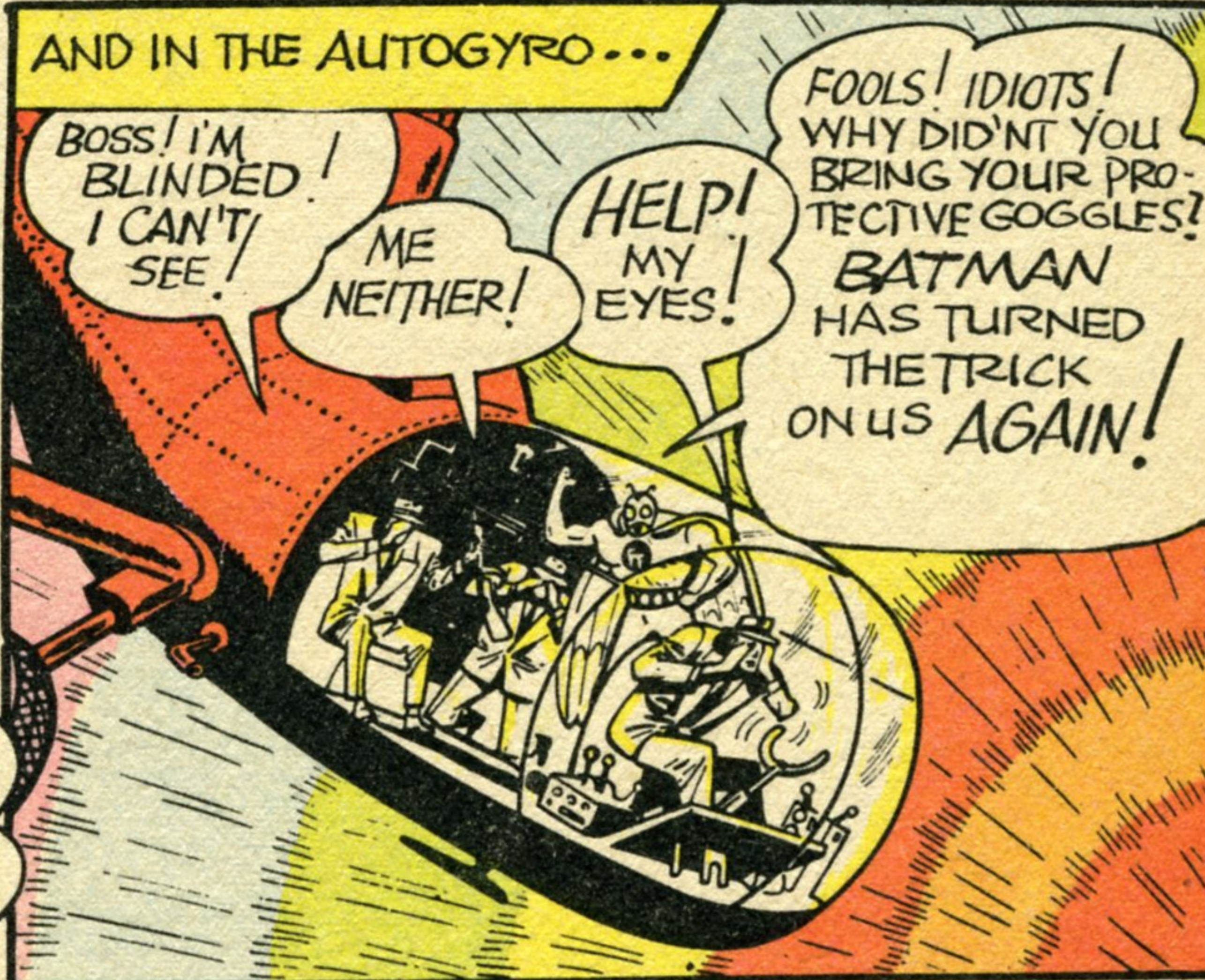
AND IN THE AUTOGYRO . . .

BOSS! I'M
BLINDED!
I CAN'T
SEE!

ME
NEITHER!

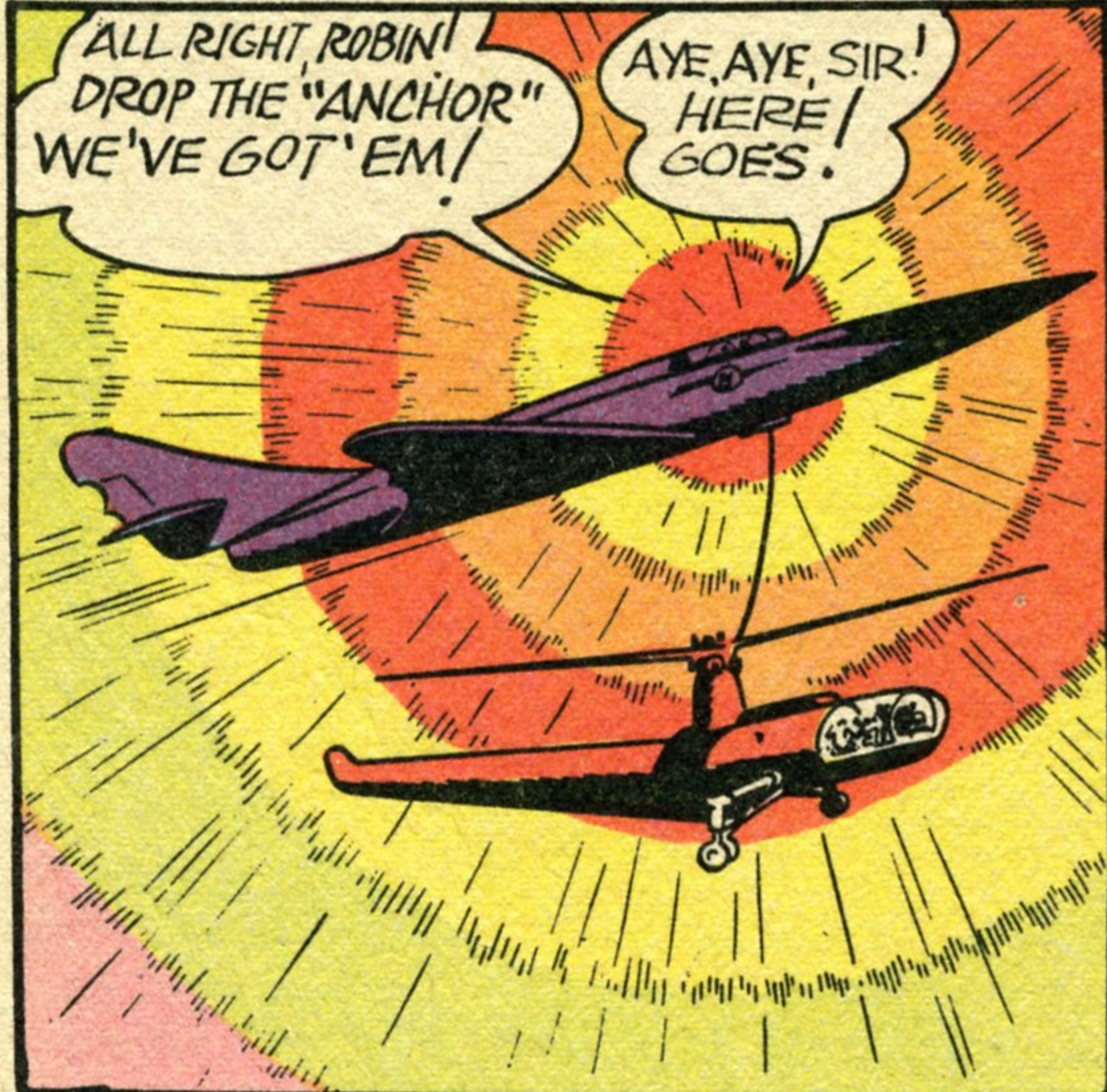
HELP!
MY
EYES!

FOOLS! IDIOTS!
WHY DIDN'T YOU
BRING YOUR PRO-
TECTIVE GOGGLES?
BATMAN
HAS TURNED
THE TRICK
ON US AGAIN!



'ALL RIGHT, *ROBIN*!
DROP THE "ANCHOR"
WE'VE GOT 'EM!

AYE, AYE, SIR!
HERE!
GOES.

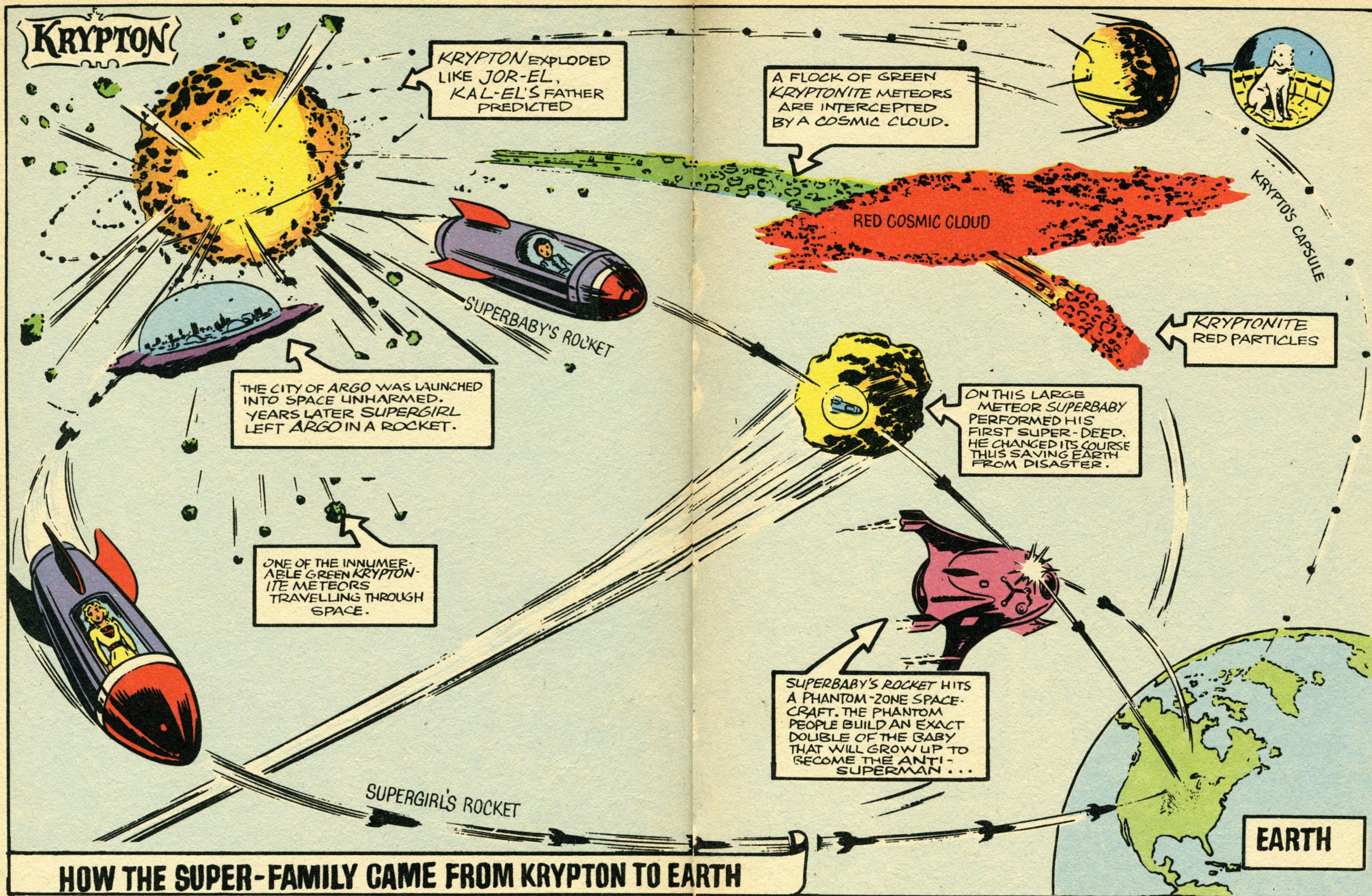


THEN, TEN MINUTES LATER, THE LAW SAYS *FINIS*
TO THE *FIREFLY*'S BIZARRE ESCAPADES

WELL,
MR. FIREFLY,
THIS IS THE END
OF YOUR GLOWING
CAREER!

YES, *ROBIN*, . . . HE
FORGOT ONE THING . . .
THE LIGHT THAT
FAILED!





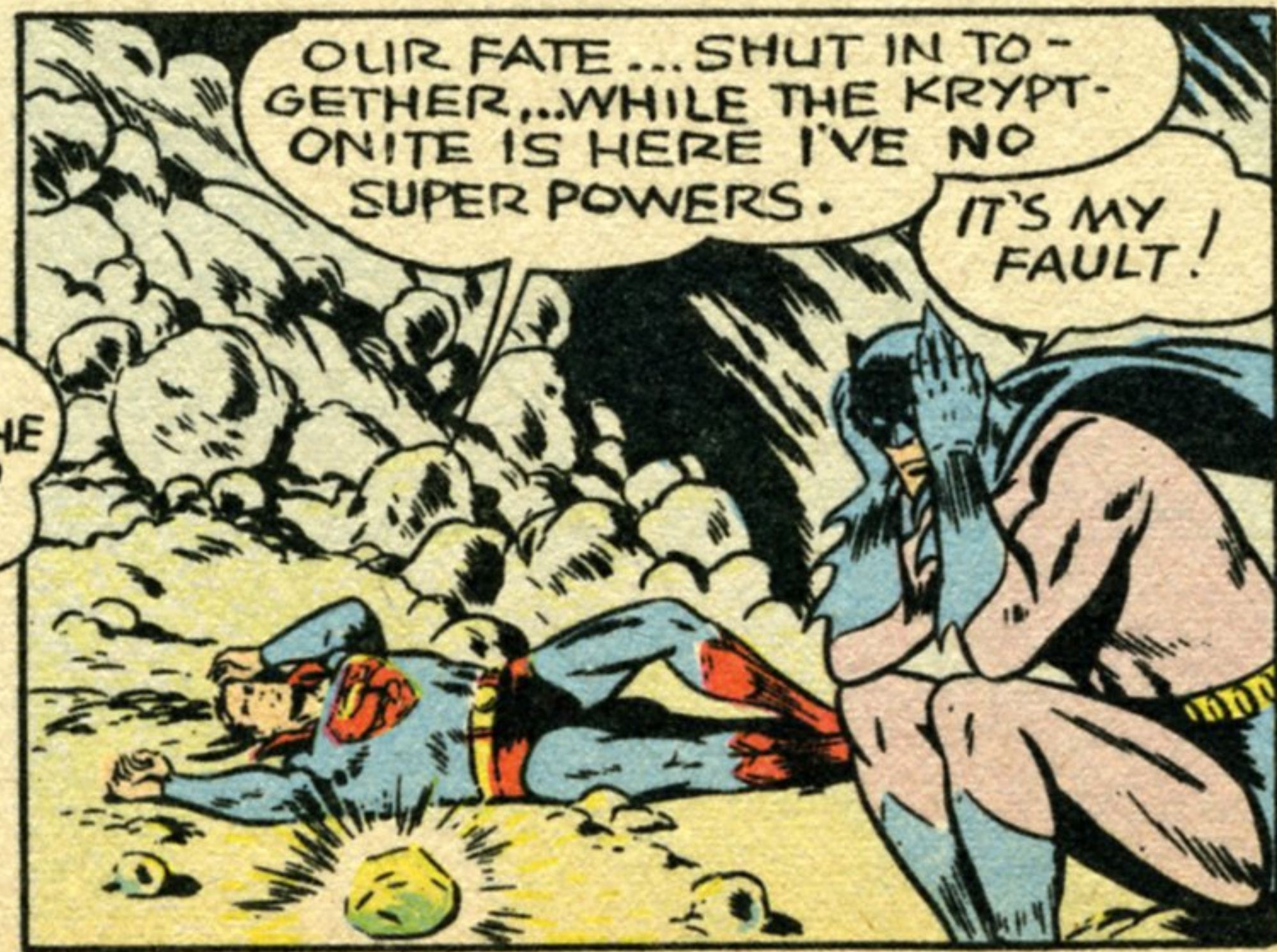
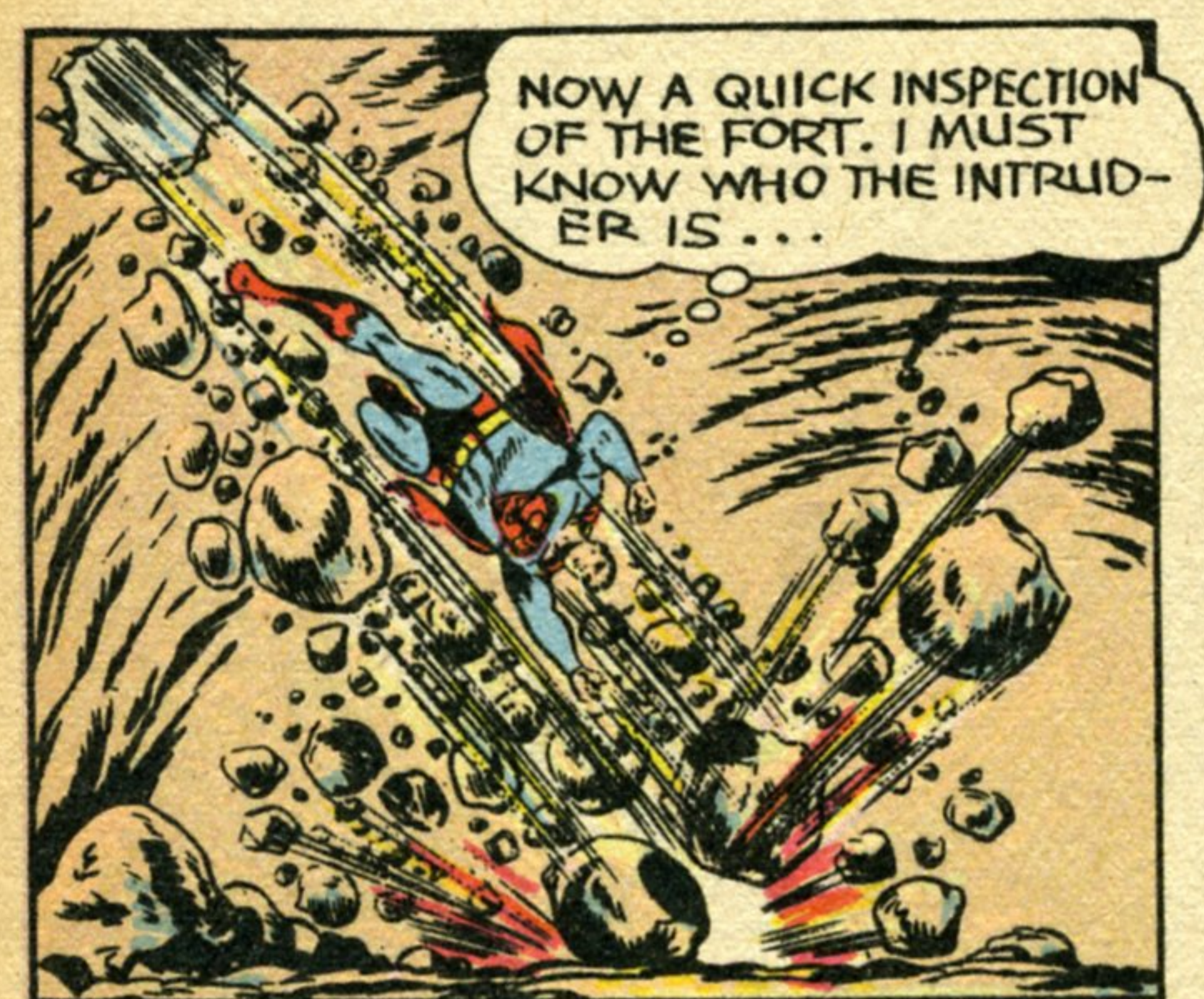
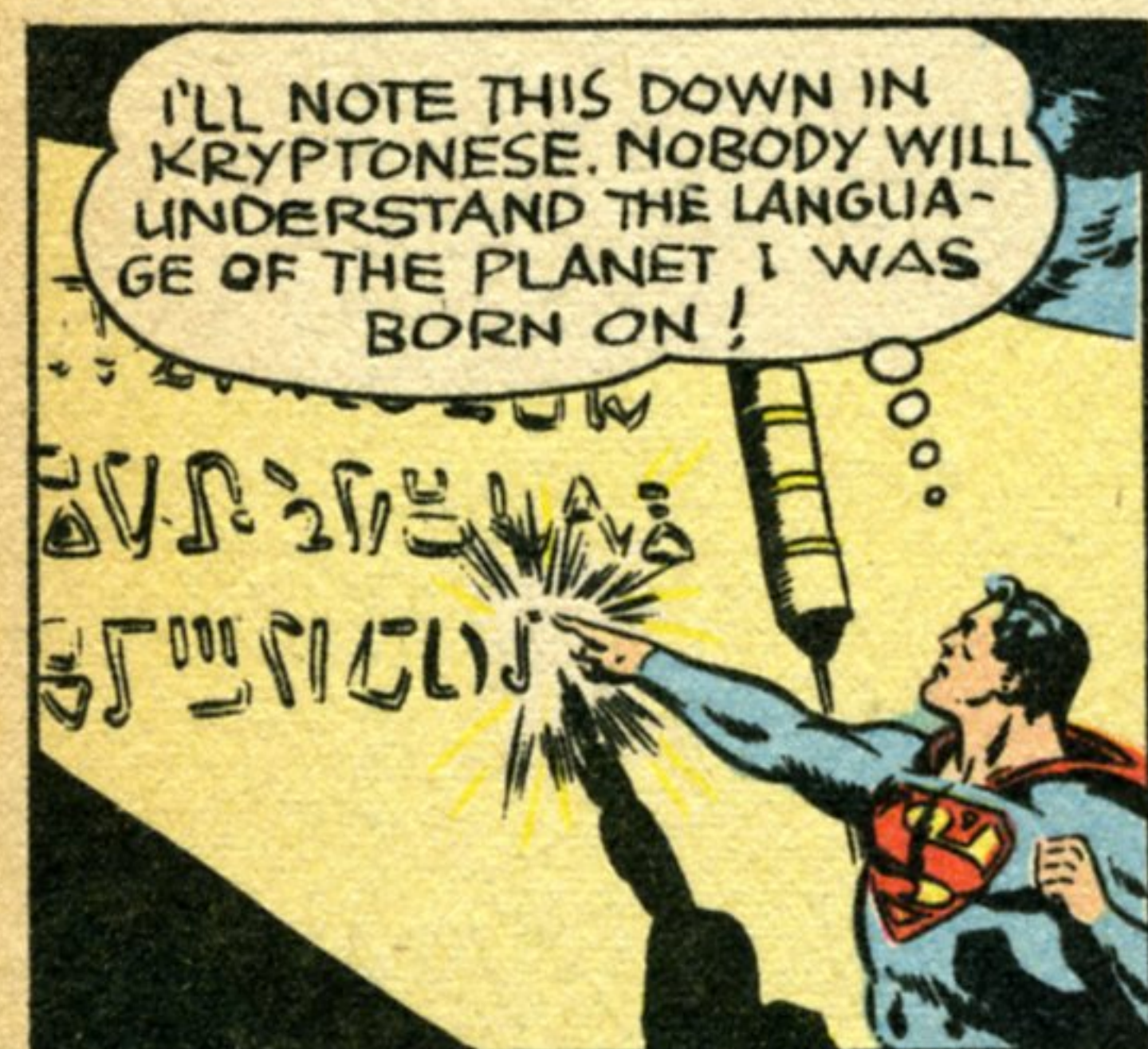
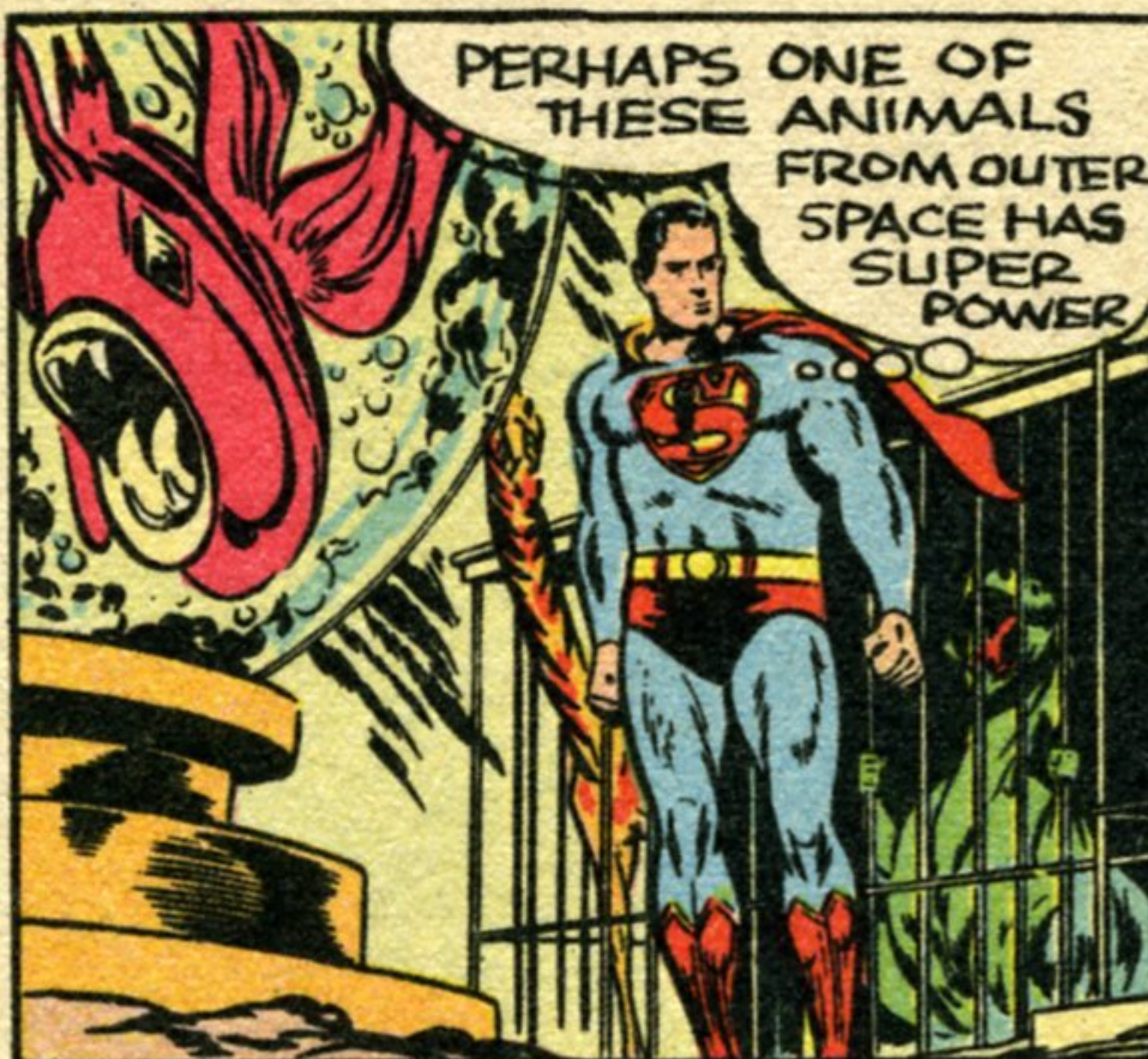
The adventures of SUPERMAN and SUPERBOY appear in SUPERMAN ANNUAL

SUPERMAN appears with BATMAN in SUPER ADVENTURE ANNUAL



BATMAN SETS SUPERMAN A RIDDLE!

IN THE 'IMPREGNABLE' FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE



END.

BATMAN & ROBIN

WHAT'S THIS? HAS THE FAMED CRIME FIGHTING COMBINATION FINALLY SPLIT? HAS BATMAN FINALLY RETIRED? YES - FOR THE DAY HAS COME WHEN THE FEARLESS LAWMAN MUST HANG UP HIS BATMAN GARB FOR GOOD! BUT WHY?... WHAT COULD HAVE MADE BATMAN COME TO SUCH A GRAVE DECISION? FOR THE ASTONISHING ANSWER, YOU MUST FIRST MEET....

THE MAN WHO ENDED BATMAN'S CAREER

LET'S TAKE THEM, STARMAN...

LOOK... IT'S ROBIN... COMING AFTER US WITH A NEW PARTNER!

BOB KANE

HIGH OVER GOTHAM CITY, A SEARCH LIGHT ILLUMINATES THE NIGHT SKY



LOOK! THE SIGNAL FROM POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS!

THAT MEANS THEY NEED THE HELP OF BATMAN AND ROBIN TO STOP A CRIME.

BUT INSTEAD OF THE FAMILIAR BAT-SIGNAL A STRANGE NEW EMBLEM BEAMS FORTH...



A STAR SIGNAL OF SOME SORT!

AND IN ANSWER TO THE SIGNAL, INSTEAD OF THE BAT-PLANE, A FLYING VEHICLE SHAPED LIKE A STAR SHOOTS ACROSS THE SKIES...



SOON AFTER, A LADDER DROPS FROM THE ROBOT CONTROLLED STAR-PLANE, AND



LOOK! IT'S ROBIN...AND SOME OTHER GUY! ROBIN'S GOT A NEW PARTNER!

LET'S TAKE THEM, STARMAN!

STARMAN? THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME... I'M LAMMING!



AS THE BANDITS TRY TO ESCAPE, STARMAN'S HAND DIPS INTO A HOLSTER-POUCH...

THESE STAR-DARTS SHOULD STOP THEM EASILY ENOUGH...



WITH UNERRING ACCURACY THE SHARP MISSILES REACH THEIR TARGETS...

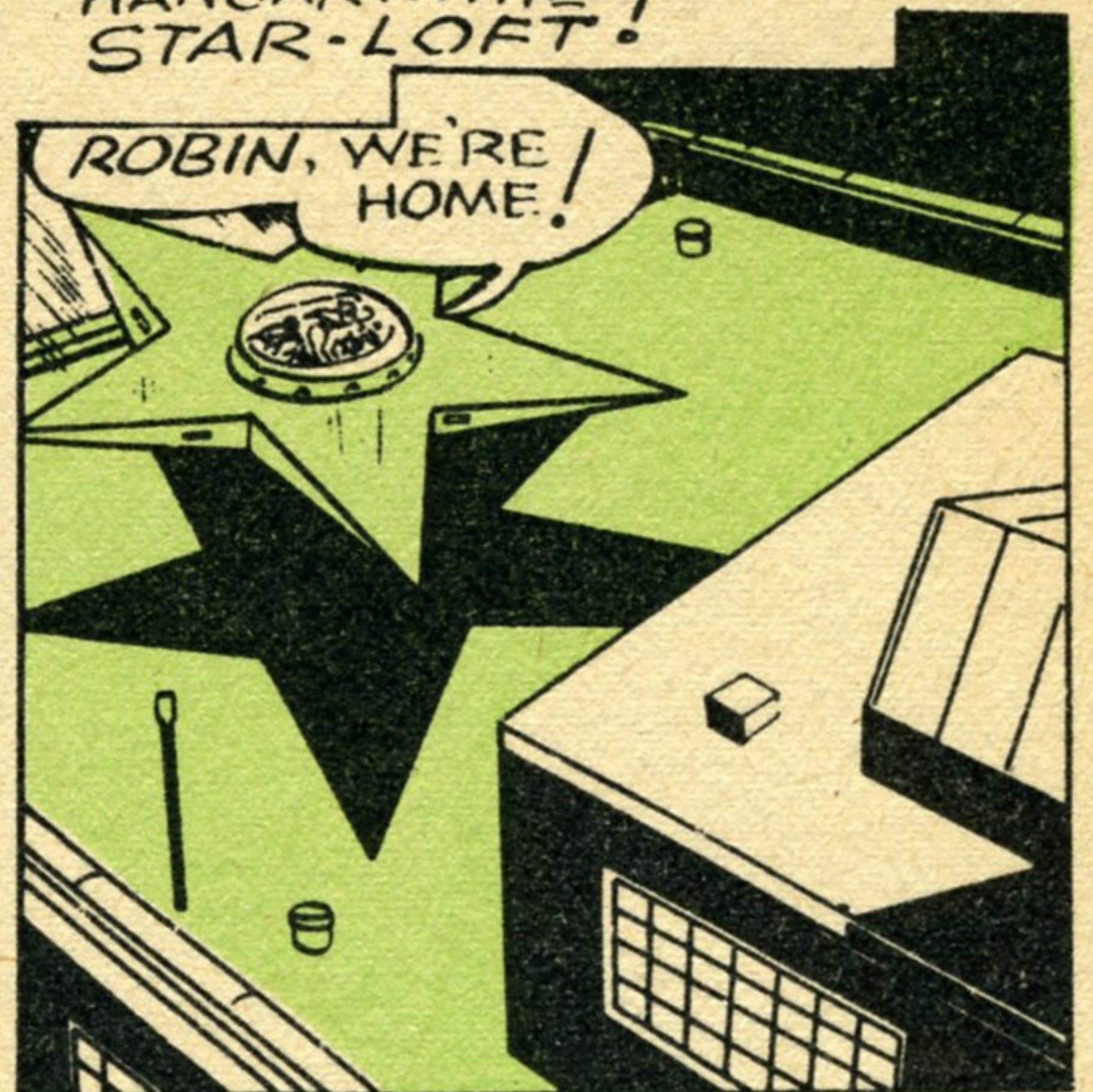
HUH? I CAN'T GET MY SLEEVE LOOSE!

MY COAT'S! CAUGHT!



LATER, AFTER DROPPING THE CAPTURED BANDITS AT THE POLICE STATION, THE STAR-PLANE FLIES TO ITS SECRET HANGAR...THE STAR-LOFT.

ROBIN, WE'RE HOME!



INSIDE THEIR SECRET LAIR, ROBIN REMOVES HIS MASK, REVEALING THE FAMILIAR FACE OF DICK GRAYSON.

NOT A BAD NIGHT'S WORK, EH, STARMAN? YOU DID AS WELL AS BATMAN EVER COULD!



AND THEN STARMAN REMOVES HIS COWL, TO REVEAL THE FACE OF... BRUCE WAYNE!

IT STILL SEEMS STRANGE NOT TO BE WEARING MY USUAL BATMAN COWL - BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE!



I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO SEEING YOU IN THIS NEW COSTUME, BRUCE! SIGH IF ONLY YOU COULD...

NO, DICK! MY CAREER AS BATMAN IS FINISHED!

I CAN NEVER WEAR THE BATMAN COSTUME AGAIN!



WHY? WHAT COULD HAVE MADE BRUCE WAYNE ABANDON THE ACTION GARB THAT MADE HIM THE MOST FAMOUS OF CRIME-FIGHTERS? FOR THE ANSWER, WE MUST GO BACK A FEW DAYS.....

...TO A MEETING OF THE UNDERWORLD IN THE SECRET LABORATORY OF A RENEGADE SCIENTIST NAMED PROFESSOR MILO....

OTHER MEN HAVE FAILED AT CRIME BECAUSE OF BATMAN... BUT I SHALL SUCCEED IN DEFEATING BATMAN THROUGH A PHOBIA!

A PHOBIA? WHAT'S THAT MILO?

A PHOBIA IS A FEAR OF SOMETHING... A FEAR THAT IS PARALYZING, WILL DESTROYING! A MAN MAY HAVE AGORAPHOBIA A FEAR OF OPEN SPACES, ANOTHER MAY HAVE CLAUSTROPHOBIA... A FEAR OF ENCLOSED PLACES! THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF PHOBIAS!

BATMAN, OF COURSE, IS AFRAID OF NOTHING... THEREFORE I WILL GIVE HIM A FEAR... AN ARTIFICIAL PHOBIA WITH THIS

AFTER MANY YEARS OF RESEARCH I'VE DEVELOPED A SUBSTANCE SO PRECIOUS IT CAN ONLY BE USED ONCE... AND IT WILL MAKE BATMAN HELPLESS TO STOP OUR MARCH OF CRIME!

NEXT DAY, AT A CHARITY BENEFIT WERE BATMAN WAS AN HONORED GUEST....

AND NOW OUR OWN 'BAT-SIGNAL' ANNOUNCES THE APPEARANCE OF OUR GUEST SPEAKER... BATMAN!

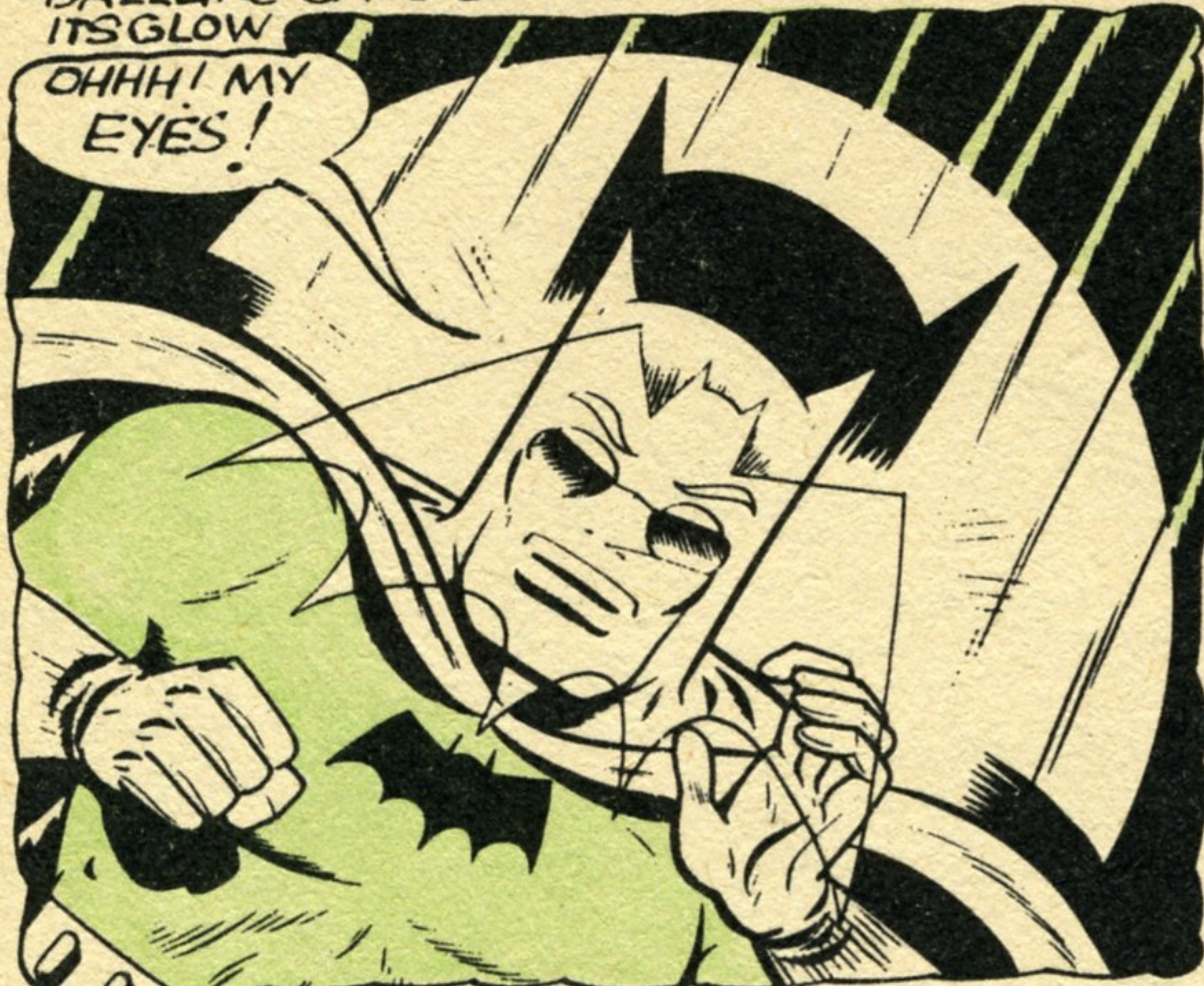
AT THAT MOMENT INSIDE THE PROJECTION BOOTH...

ALL SET, BOSS. NOBODY KNOWS I TOOK THE REAL PROJECTIONISTS PLACE!

GOOD! I'VE ALREADY PAINTED THE "PHOBIA" LIQUID ON THE SPOTLIGHT LENS... NOW... FOCUS ITS RAYS ON BATMAN!

ABRUPTLY, THE SPOTLIGHT SWIVELLED DOWN... AND LIKE A BURSTING FLARE, THE DAZZLING BAT SIGNAL BATHED BATMAN WITH ITS GLOW.

OHHH! MY EYES!



I'M SORRY, BATMAN!...

FORGET IT... ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN! BUT I'D BETTER GO HOME NOW AND REST MY EYES! I... I FEEL A LITTLE DIZZY...



THAT NIGHT WHILE BATMAN RESTED IN HIS OTHER IDENTITY... AS WEALTHY SOCIALITE, BRUCE WAYNE...

THE BAT-SIGNAL BRUCE! ARE YOUR EYES OKAY NOW?

THEY'RE FINE, DICK! I'LL TURN ON THE POLICE RADIO, AND WE'LL GET GOING!



BUT IN THE SECRET BAT-CAVE BELOW THE WAYNE MANSION, AS BRUCE STARTED TO DON HIS BATMAN GARB...

THE BAT EMBLEM... SOMEHOW I... I CAN'T LOOK AT IT!



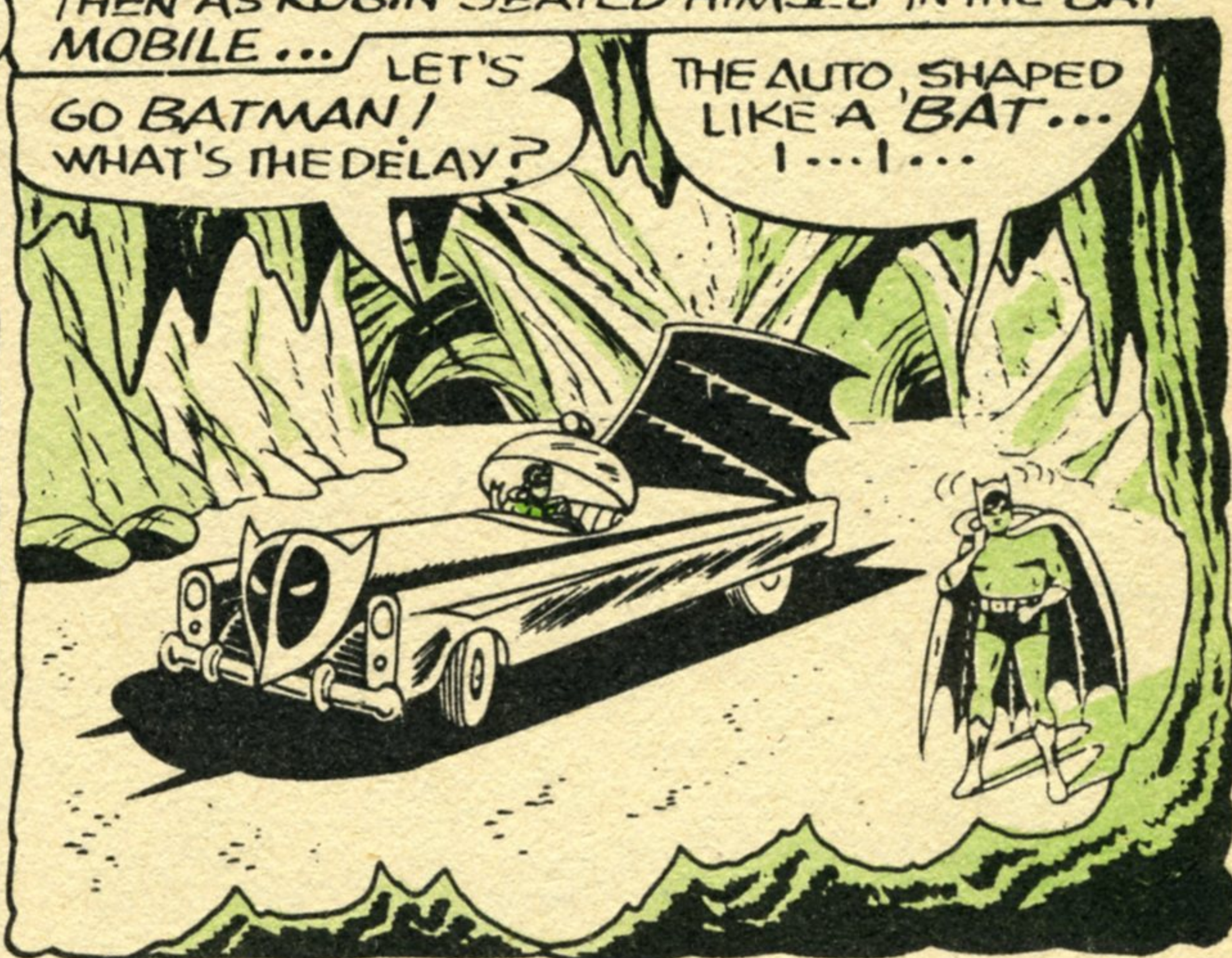
BRUCE! WHY ARE YOU RIPPING THE BAT EMBLEM OFF?

I... I DON'T KNOW... BUT I MUST... I MUST!



THEN AS ROBIN SEATED HIMSELF IN THE BAT-MOBILE... LET'S GO BATMAN! WHAT'S THE DELAY?

THE AUTO, SHAPED LIKE A 'BAT'... I... I...





ROBIN, LET'S... UH... GO ON FOOT TONIGHT! I MEAN... SINCE THE CRIME SITE ISN'T FAR FROM HERE, ANYHOW...

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO BATMAN? HE'S CERTAINLY ACTING FUNNY TONIGHT!



SHORTLY, AT THE GOTHAM ART MUSEUM...

BATMAN AND ROBIN! THAT'S OUR CUE TO SCRAM!



THEY'RE HEADING FOR THAT BACK EXIT DOOR!

THEY'LL NEVER GET THROUGH IT! I'LL HIT THE DOOR WITH MY BATARANG AND SLAM IT SHUT!



BUT SUDDENLY, AS BATMAN RAISED THE BATARANG FOR THE THROW... OH-H-H...



BEFORE BATMAN COULD RECOVER HIS POISE, THE BANDITS WERE GONE...

TOUGH BREAK! HERE'S YOUR... BATMAN! WHAT'S WRONG?

TH- THE BATARANG... TAKE IT AWAY... PLEASE... TAKE IT AWAY!



LATER... YOUR PHOBIA TRICK WORKED, MILO! BATMAN DROPPED THE BATARANG LIKE A HOT POTATO... HA, HA!

YES... I'VE GIVEN HIM AN IRONIC PHOBIA... I'VE MADE BATMAN AFRAID OF BATS!

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN AGAIN ANSWERED A POLICE CALL . . .

HERE THEY COME AGAIN!

WHAT'S THE RUSH? WE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.



AS BATMAN CLOSED IN, ONE BANDIT SUDDENLY OPENED A SMALL BOX, AND . . .

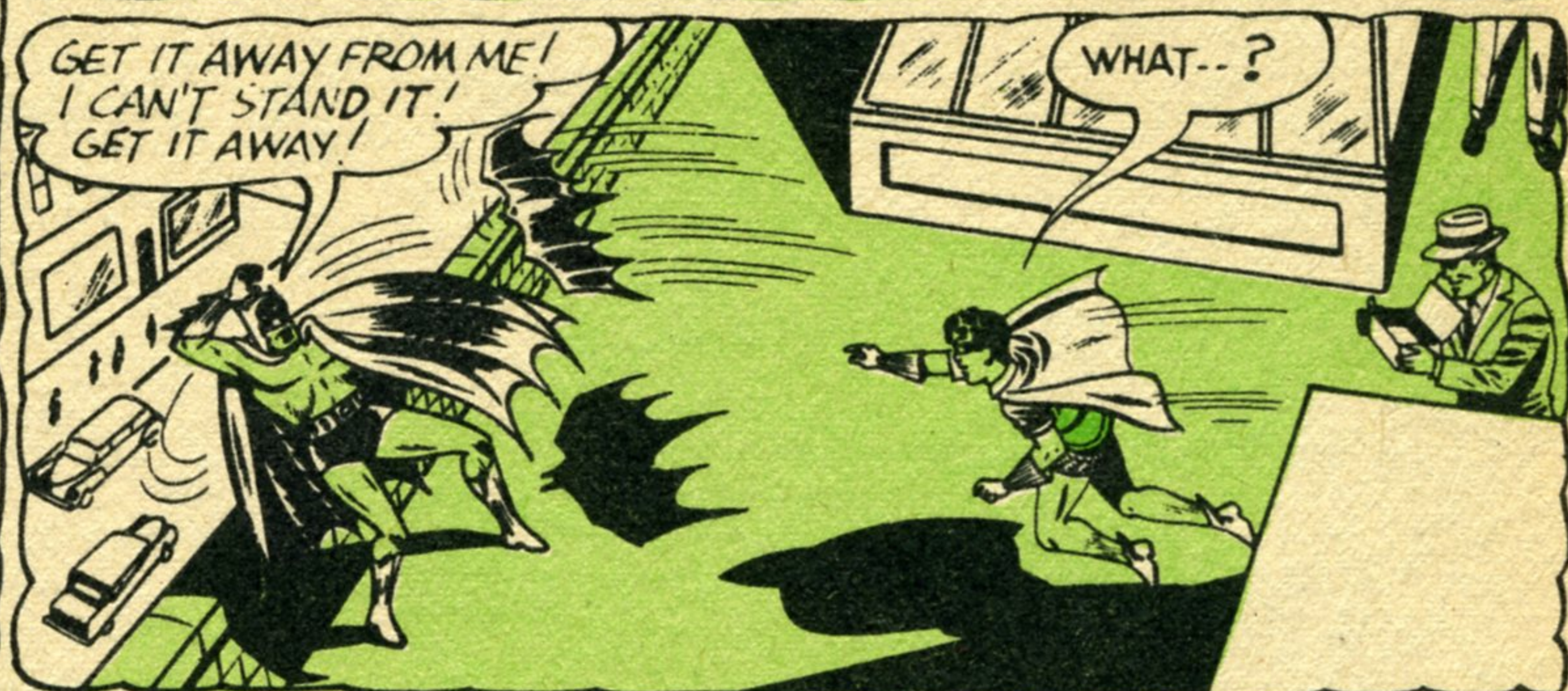
SURPRISE!

YI-I-I! A BAT! A BAT!



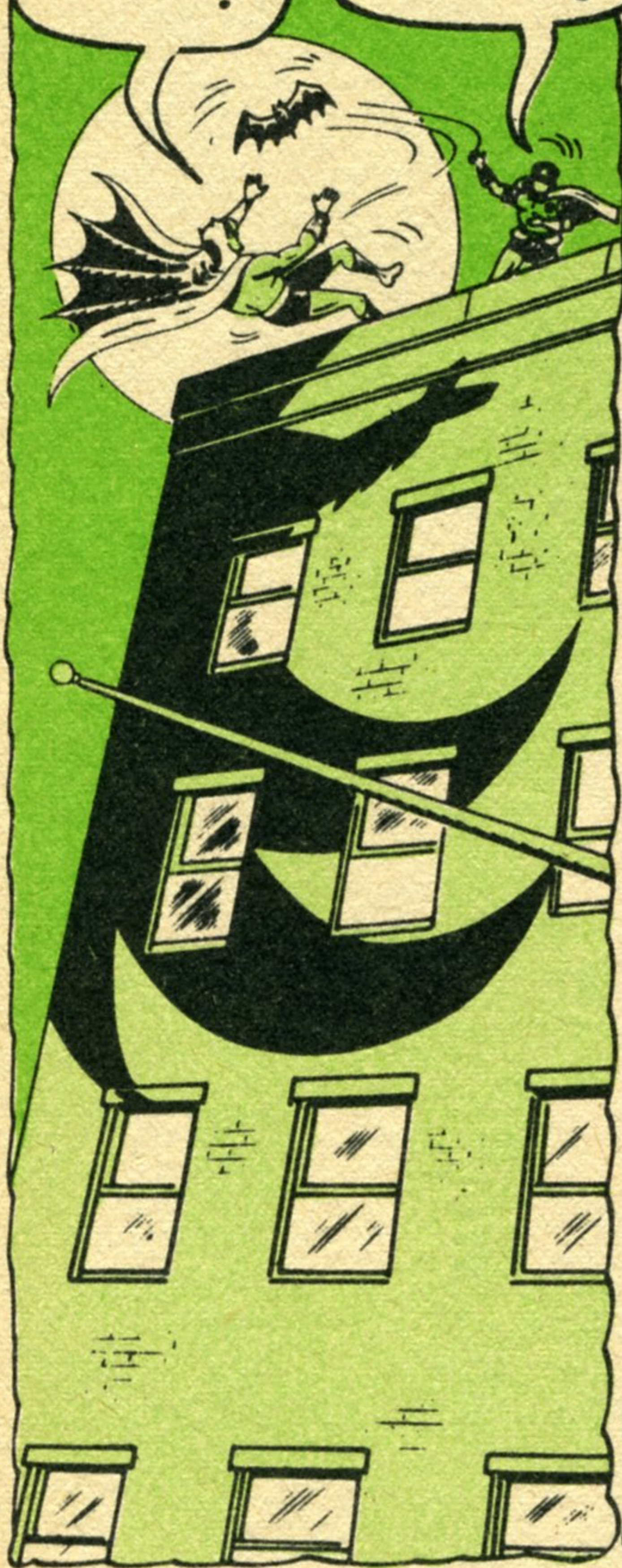
GET IT AWAY FROM ME! I CAN'T STAND IT! GET IT AWAY!

WHAT--?



GET IT AWAY... HELP! I'M SLIPPING!

BATMAN!



ONLY ONE WAY TO CATCH HIM... THAT FLAG-POLE...



UHH! GOT YOU!



LATER, A DISTURBED BATMAN FACED THE GREATEST CRISIS OF HIS CAREER....

ROBIN, I MUST TELL YOU THE TRUTH! I'M AFRAID OF ANYTHING THAT RESEMBLES A BAT... SOMEONE HAS GIVEN ME AN ARTIFICIAL PHOBIA!

ARTIFICIAL PHOBIA? BUT HOW...?

REMEMBER THAT 'ACCIDENT' AT THE CHARITY SHOW? ... IT WAS NO ACCIDENT! SOMEHOW, IT MADE THE EMBLEM IN THAT 'BAT SIGNAL' REGISTER ON MY SUBCONSCIOUS MIND... SO THAT AFTERWARD, I WOULD BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING BAT-SHAPED!

OF COURSE! THAT'S WHY THAT CROOK RELEASED A LIVE BAT BEFORE. HE KNEW IN ADVANCE THAT YOU'D BE FRIGHTENED!

EXACTLY! SOME BODY INTENDS TO USE BAT-SCARES AGAINST ME WHEN EVER I TRY TO INTERFERE WITH HIS ROBBERIES!

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, BATMAN'S PHOBIA GAVE HIM MANY EMBARRASSING MOMENTS...

HI, BATMAN! LIKE MY NEW BAT-KITE?

UHHH! GET IT AWAY FROM ME! GET IT AWAY!

IT GREW SO ACUTE THAT BATMAN ACTUALLY BECAME AFRAID OF HIS OWN SHADOW!

NO! NO! NO!

THUS, BEFORE LONG, THE CAPED CRIME BUSTER WAS FORCED INTO A TERRIBLE DECISION....

COMMISSIONER GORDON, MY BATMAN CAREER IS FINISHED! FROM NOW ON ROBIN WILL WORK WITH A NEW PARTNER... STARMAN!

BUT... WHY??

WITHIN AN HOUR, ALL OVER THE WORLD, BATMAN'S RETIREMENT BECAME TOP NEWS...

IMPOSSIBLE! IT MUST BE SOME SORT OF JOKE!

NO! I HEARD THAT HE CRACKED UP!!

AND SO IT CAME ABOUT THAT BATMAN WAS FORCED TO CLOAK HIMSELF IN THE NEW IDENTITY OF STARMAN!



BUT NOW AFTER HIS FIRST SUCCESSFUL SKIRMISH WITH THE UNDERWORLD, HE IS STILL A WORRIED MAN....

STARMAN WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT CRIME TOO LONG THE CRIME BOSS WHO EVER HE IS WILL REALIZE I'M JUST WEARING ANOTHER COSTUME ... AND HELL USE BAT-SCARES AGAINST STAR-MAN!



GOLLY... ISN'T THERE A CURE FOR A PHOBIA?



YES... IF THE PATIENT CAN BE MADE TO REALIZE THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF... BUT THAT TAKES LOTS OF TIME!

Hmm... IT FIGURES!



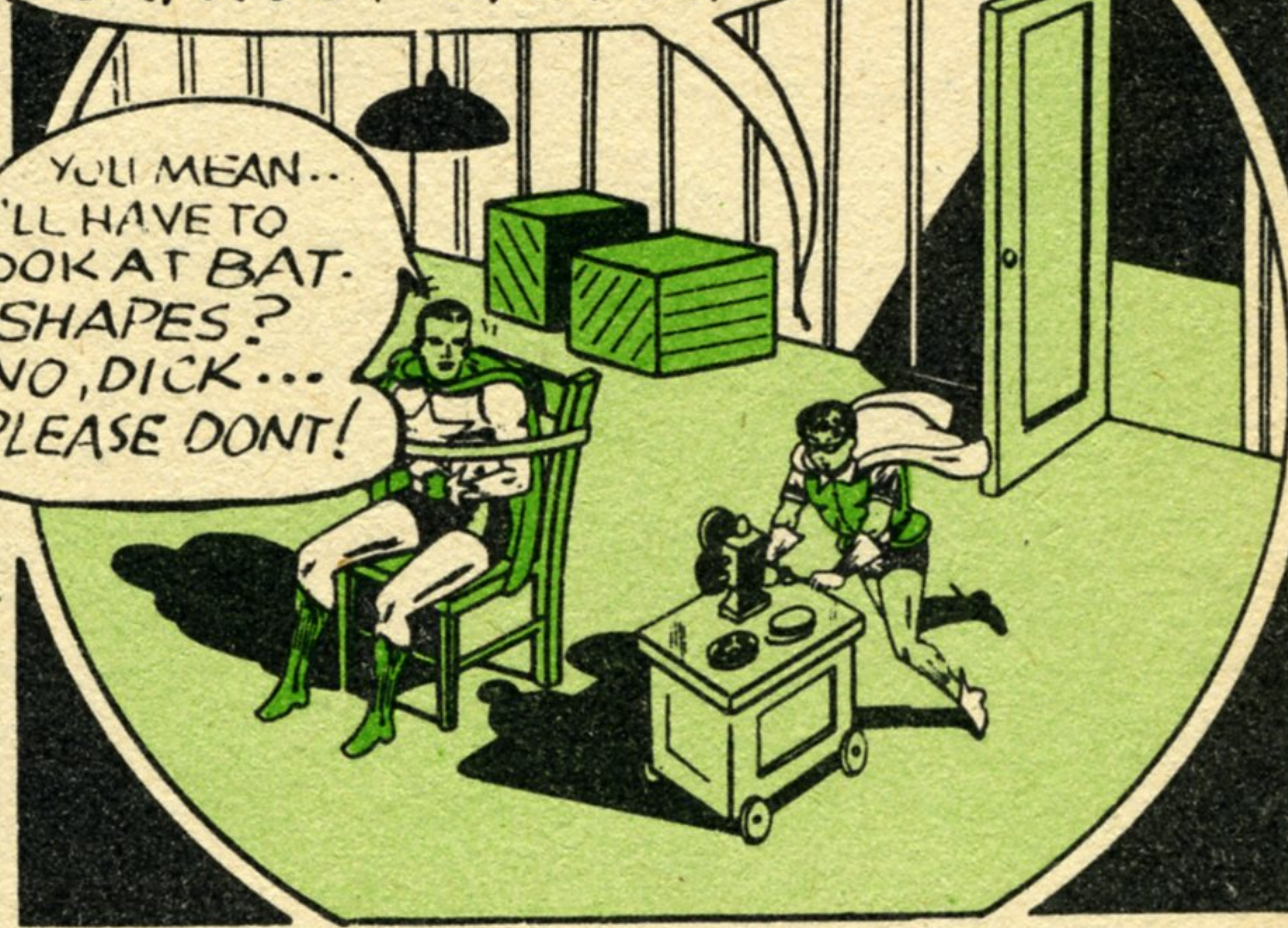
SUDDENLY... / DICK!... WHY ARE YOU STRAPPING ME TO THIS CHAIR?

SORRY, BRUCE! IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

I'M GOING TO TRY TO CURE YOUR PHOBIA... BY SHOWING YOU NEWSREELS FROM SOME OF BATMAN'S PAST CASES!



YOU MEAN... I'LL HAVE TO LOOK AT BAT-SHAPES? NO, DICK... PLEASE DON'T!



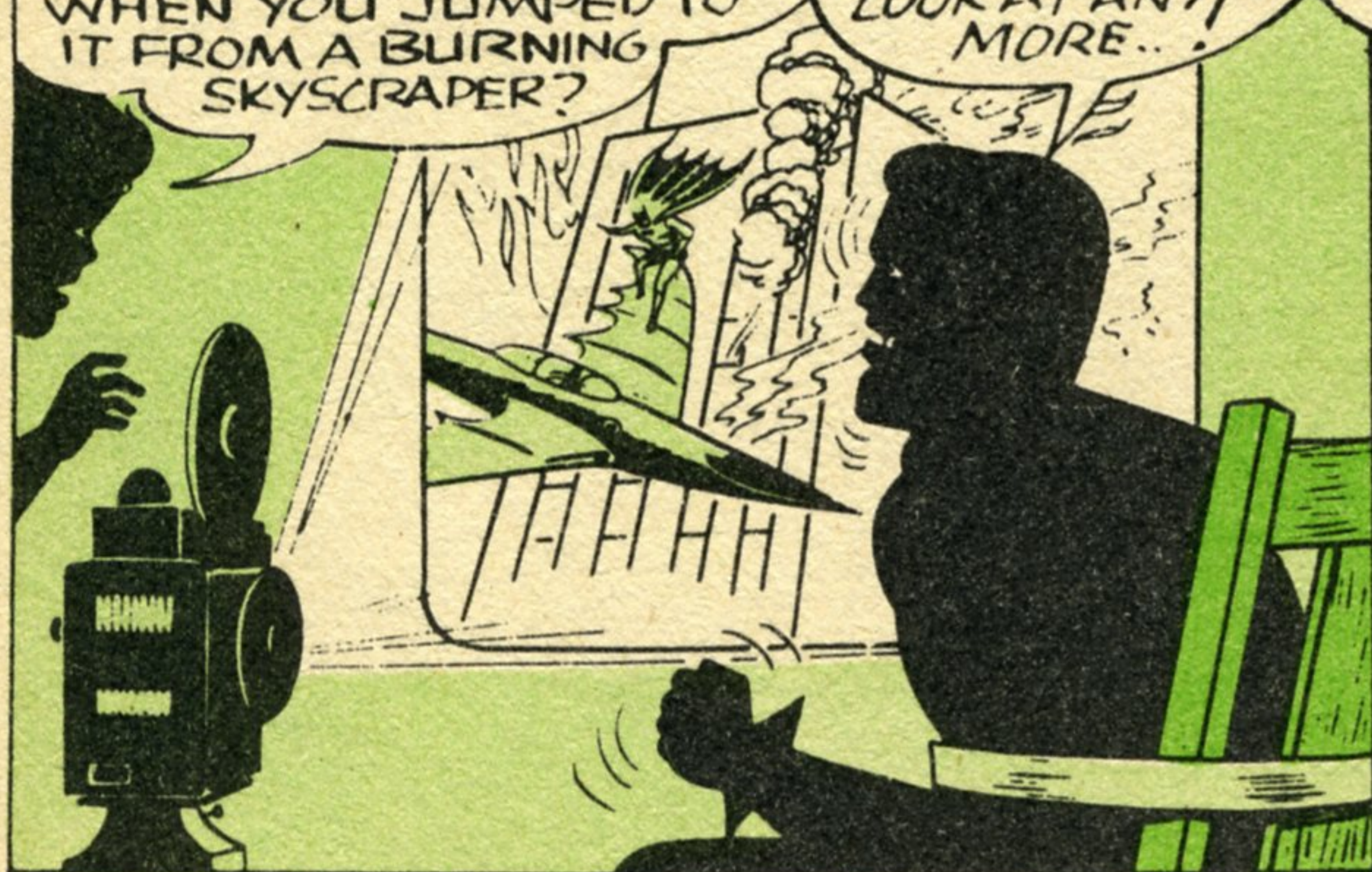
THOUGH CLOSE TO TEARS, THE BOY PURPOSELY DEAFENS HIMSELF TO HIS GUARDIAN'S PLEAS...

REMEMBER HOW THE BAT-PLANE SAVED YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU JUMPED TO IT FROM A BURNING SKYSCRAPER?

NO DICK! PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME LOOK AT ANY MORE...

G-GOSH, BRUCE... DO YOU THINK I LIKE HURTING YOU... MY BEST FRIEND? I WANT TO HELP YOU... YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK!

A-ALL RIGHT, DICK... I'LL TRY...



HIS LIPS A TIGHT LINE, BRUCE STEELS HIMSELF TO WATCH THE NEXT CLIP...

REMEMBER HOW THE BAT-CAPE SAVED YOUR LIFE... WHEN YOU HUNG IT OVER A STANCHION- AND TRICKED A KILLER INTO FIRING AT IT?



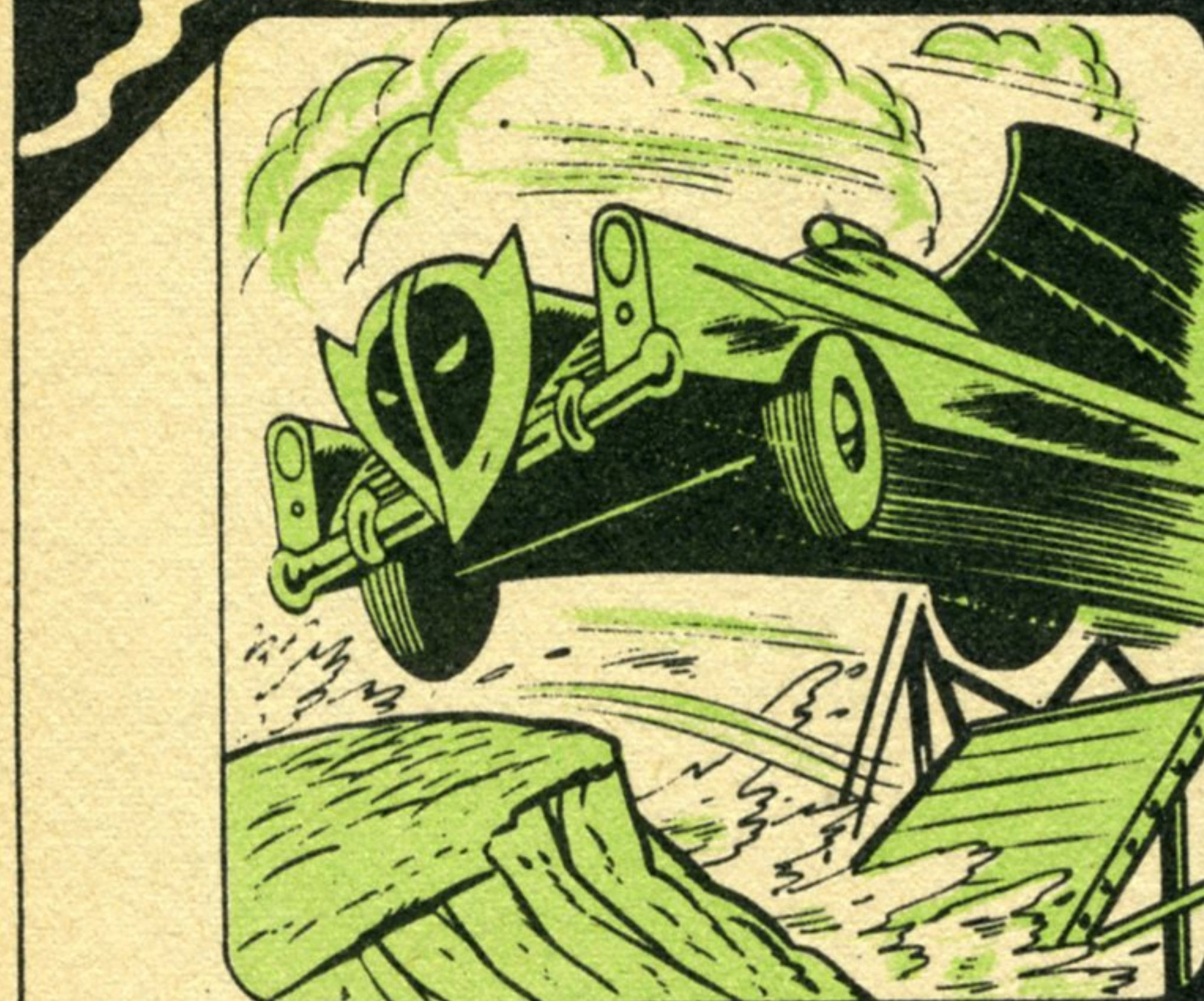
WHAT ABOUT THE TIME BAT-FLASHLIGHT THREW THE 'CAVEMAN' OFF-GUARD, JUST AS HE WAS ABOUT CLUB YOU?

I MUST WATCH... I MUST!



AND REMEMBER HOW THE BATMOBILE'S SPEED SAVED YOU FROM THE COLLAPSING BRIDGE?

YES, I... I REMEMBER.



AS SCENE AFTER SCENE FLASHES BEFORE HIM, BRUCE BEGINS TO RELAX...

YOU SEE HOW ALL THESE BAT-SHAPED THINGS HELPED YOU? THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! HOW CAN YOU BE AFRAID OF THINGS THAT HELP YOU?



BUT WILL BRUCE BE CURED IN TIME? FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT...

IN MILO'S LABORATORY...

YOU FOOLS! IT'S OBVIOUS STARMAN'S ONLY BATMAN IN ANOTHER COSTUME! BAH! HE WON'T TRICK ME! I'VE GOT A BATSCARE PLAN TO FINISH BATMAN FOR GOOD!

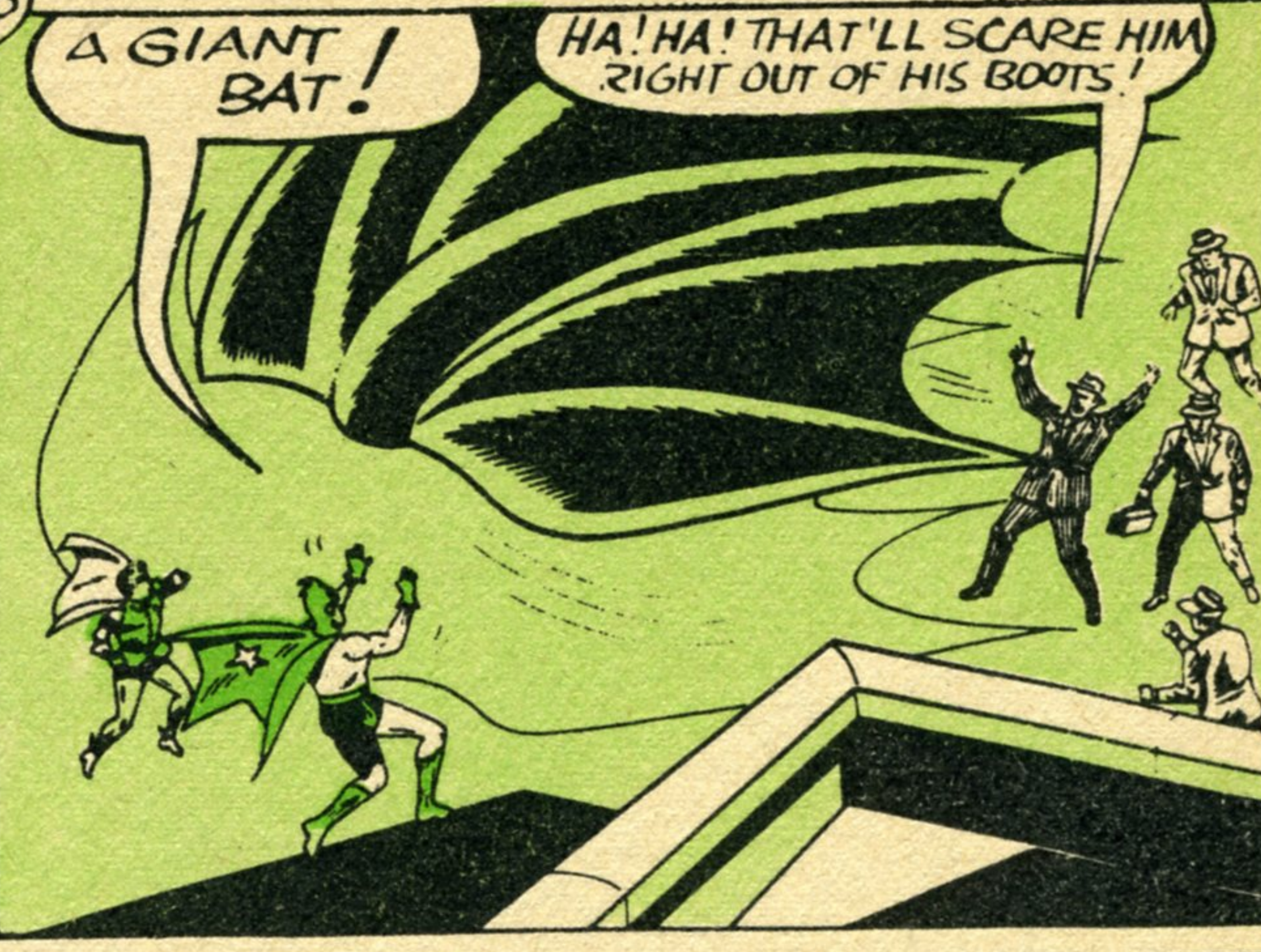


THAT SAME NIGHT, AS BANDITS MAKE OFF WITH A FACTORY PAYROLL... WAIT TILL I
HERE COME STARMAN AND ROBIN... RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!



FIT THIS COMPRESSED AIR CARTRIDGE TO THIS BALLOON! WILL STARMAN GET A SURPRISE!

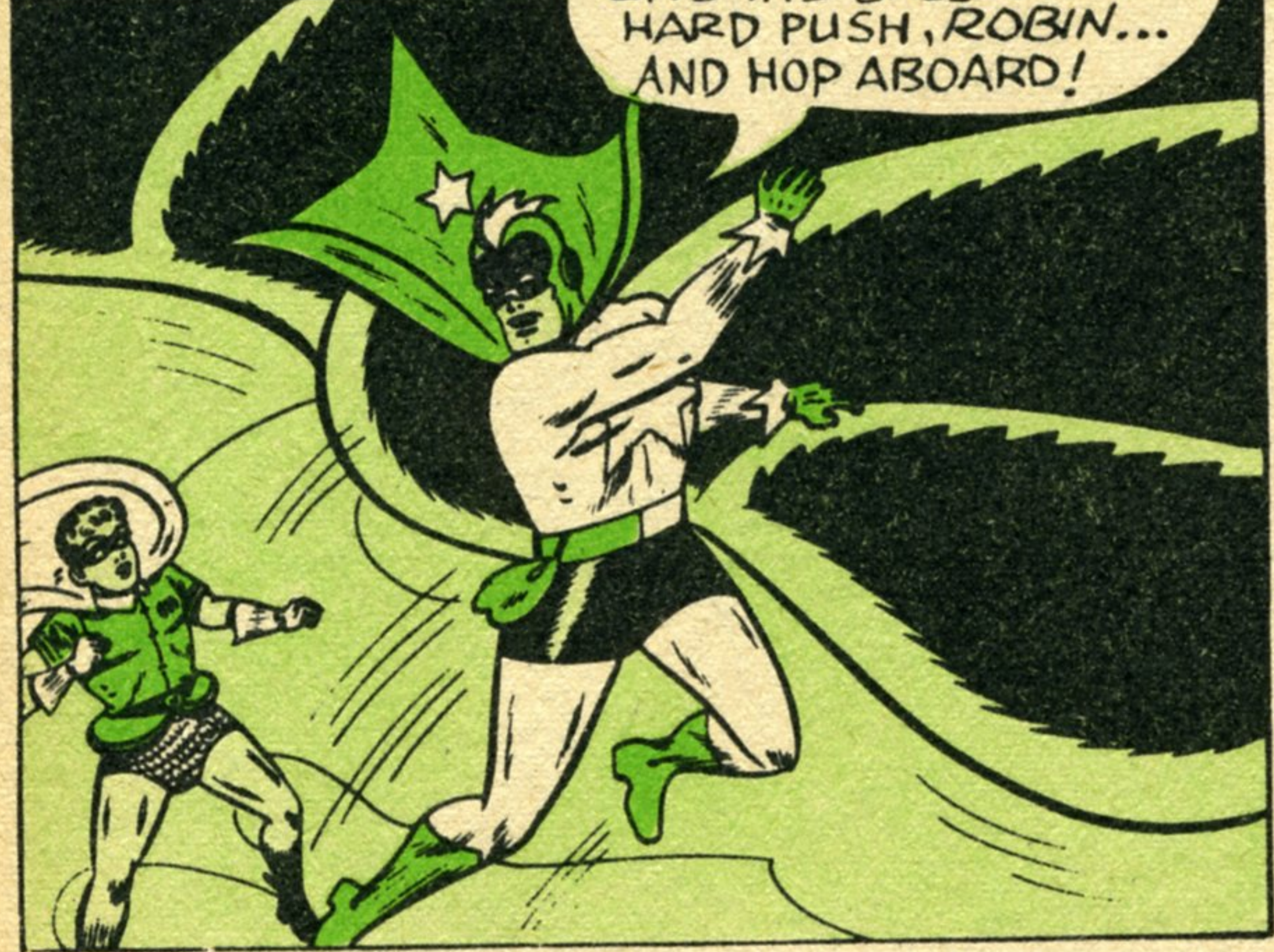
AN INSTANT LATER, THE DISGUISED BATMAN RECOILS IN FRIGHT, AS THE BALLOON SWELLS SWIFTLY INTO A COLOSSAL FORM



A GIANT BAT!

HA! HA! THAT'LL SCARE HIM RIGHT OUT OF HIS BOOTS!

BUT GETTING A GRIP ON HIS SCREAMING NERVES, THE MASKED LAWMAN LEAPS ATOP THE BLIMP-SIZED "BAT", AND ...



GIVE THE BALLOON A HARD PUSH, ROBIN... AND HOP ABOARD!

YI-I-I! LOOK! ... H-HE'S RIDIN' THE BAT-BALLOON!



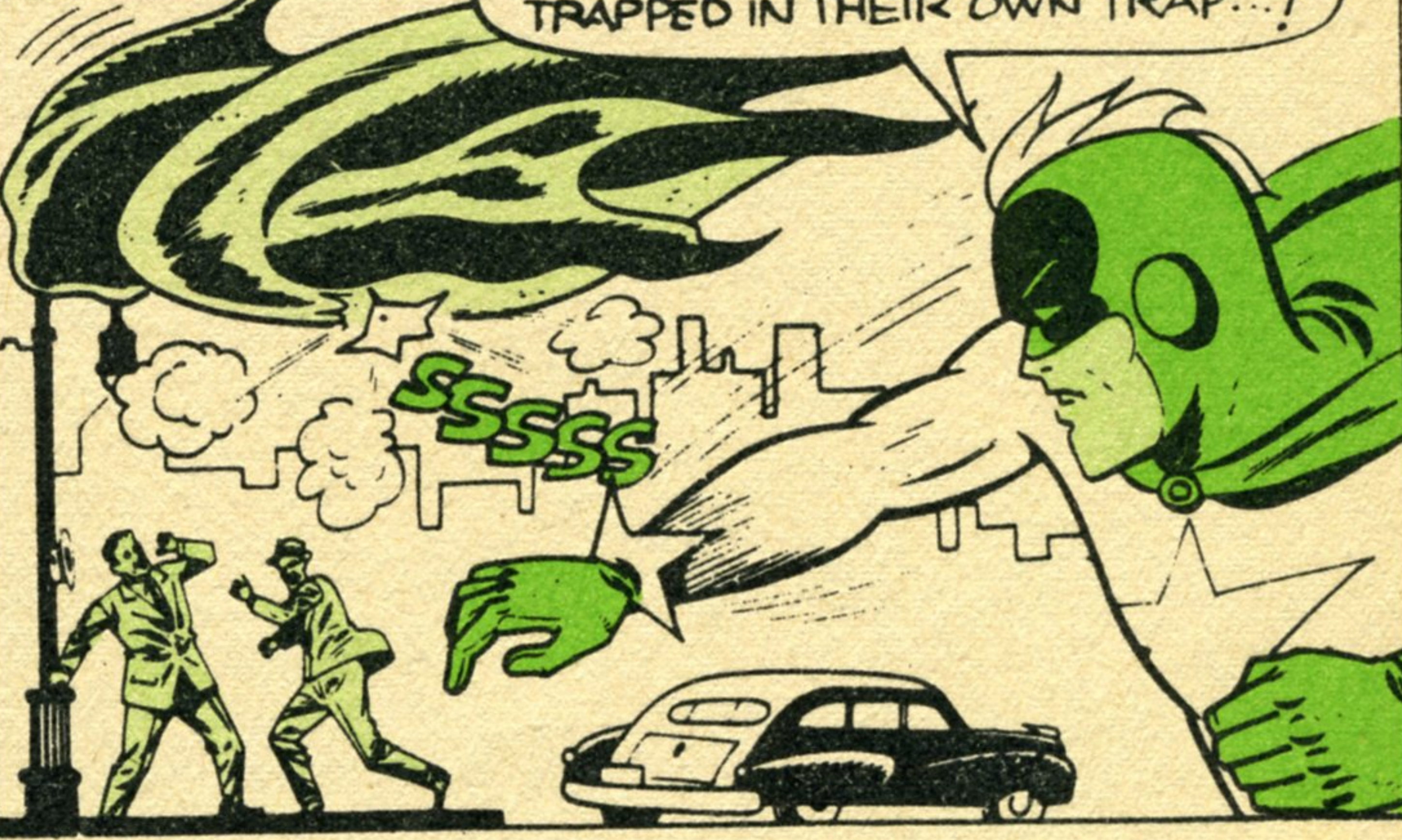
THEN STARMAN CAN'T BE BATMAN!

THE OTHER TWO ARE GETTING AWAY, STARMAN!



THEY WON'T GET FAR... I'LL STOP THEM WITH A STARARANG!

LIKE A SWIFT-FALLING METEORITE, THE RAZOR-EDGED STARARANG FLASHES AT THE FLOATING BLIMP-BAT, SLASHING IT...



LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO BE TRAPPED IN THEIR OWN TRAP...!

SOON AFTER, MILO HAS AN UNINVITED VISITOR

YOUR MEN
TALKED,
MILO!

STARMAN! HAH! I'LL
SOON STOP HIM!



SWIFTLY, THE CUNNING SCIENTIST HOLDS UP A
PAPER CUT-OUT OF... A BAT...

GET BACK, BATMAN...OR STARMAN...OR
WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF...!
THIS IS A BAT... AND YOU'RE AFRAID
OF BATS, AREN'T YOU?



YOU STILL THINK
I'M AFRAID OF
BATS, MILO?

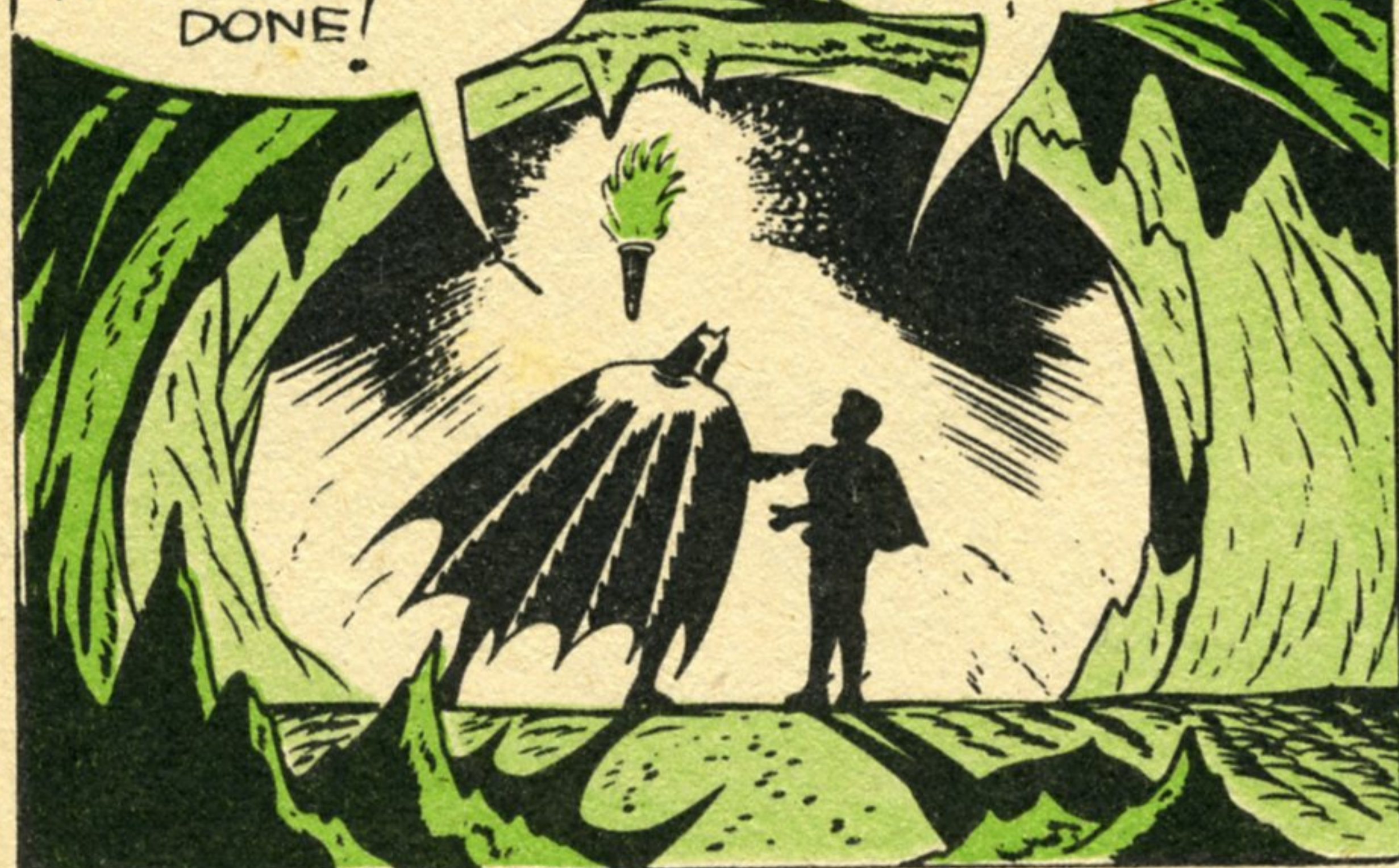
Gulp! A... A BATMAN
COSTUME... UNDER THE
STARMAN COSTUME!



AND SO, AFTER TURNING MILO OVER TO THE POLICE...

THANKS, ROBIN...
I'LL ALWAYS BE
GRATEFUL FOR
WHAT YOU'VE
DONE!

GOSH...WHAT ARE
FRIENDS FOR, IF NOT
TO HELP EACH
OTHER?



MEANWHILE WHAT HAS COME OVER MILO, AS HE
SITS IN A JAIL CELL?...

YI...I...I! A BAT! GET
IT AWAY FROM ME!

THE GUY'S SUDDEN-
LY AFRAID OF
BATS!
I WONDER WHY?



The End

